

## U.S. gives Kuwait two tankers

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The United States navy has handed over to Kuwait two oil tankers intercepted in the Gulf in November for breaking the U.N. embargo on Iraq, an American officer said Friday. The two ships — the Tasma Bay and the C.E. Stephanos — were seized on Nov. 30 in international waters and given to Kuwait on Thursday, the commander of the U.S. Navy in Bahrain told AFP. The navy gave no details of the size of the tankers, the circumstances of their interception nor the country in which they were registered. On Nov. 6 Kuwait decided to sell the cargo of the Mahroussa, a Honduran-registered oil tanker intercepted on Oct. 21. The money from the sale went into the funds of the United Nations compensation committee, set up in 1991 to pay compensation to victims of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The fund includes Iraqi assets frozen in various countries as a result of the U.N. embargo imposed on Baghdad after the invasion. The captain of the Mahroussa, Izzat Abdul Hadi Khalifa, said his tanker had unloaded 3,162 tonnes of fuel in Al Zubair port in southeastern Iraq between Oct. 16 and 19.

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## U.S. warns Kurds to stop fighting

NICOSIA (AFP) — Washington has warned rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq to stop their fighting which threatens U.S.-led efforts to protect the region from Iraqi forces, an Arabic-language daily said Friday. Al Hayat said a U.S. State Department official visiting northern Iraq, David Lin, handed the leaders of the rival groups, Jalal Talabani and Masoud Barzani, a "sharply-worded" message from U.S. President Bill Clinton. Mr. Clinton "warned them against continuing the fighting which threatens the U.S. presence in Kurdistan ... and told them they had to take responsibility for the consequences," the London-based newspaper said. Mr. Lin headed a joint Turkish-U.S. delegation to northern Iraq to meet Mr. Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and Mr. Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) on Wednesday. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation (IBC), which represents the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella opposition movement including the KDP and PUK, said the delegation urged Mr. Barzani and Mr. Talabani to "accept INC mediation of their dispute in order to restore lasting peace to the liberated region of northern Iraq."

Jardaneh stresses liberalisation push

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Friday Jordan seeks to liberalise its economy through eliminating all forms of bureaucracy and complications facing investors. At a ceremony organised by the Customs Department at the Four Grand Hotel in Amman to mark International Customs Day, Mr. Jardaneh said the department should change its working mechanisms and offer more training for its teams not only on implementing laws, but also to give a good image of Jordan.

Ramadan office hours announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministries and government departments will be working from 9.30 a.m. till 2 p.m. during the Holy Month of Ramadan, expected to start Wednesday according to the lunar calendar. A communiqué issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker urged government personnel to adhere to the norms of the Holy Month.

France urges end to settlements

PARIS (R) — France called on Israel on Friday to stop building settlements in the occupied West Bank, saying they hampered the peace process with Palestinians. "We believe that further settlements are incompatible with advances in the peace process," a foreign ministry spokeswoman told a regular press briefing. "Besides, settlements are contrary to the Geneva convention," she said.

Oman urges end to Iraq sanctions

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman called on the international community Friday to end the embargo imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "What is happening to the Iraqi people is a disgrace for Arabs. Iraq must be helped to overcome its mistakes and come out of its isolation," said Minister of Palace Affairs Ali Ben Majid Al Muammar, in an interview with the daily Oman. Mr. Muammar also said Oman was "not rushing to establish ties with Israel. He said the sultanate was "only supporting Arab efforts to establish peace."

Ghali meets Peres, Musa in Zurich

GENEVA (R) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali discussed the Middle East peace process on Friday with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa, a U.N. statement said. The U.N. chief held 45-minute talks with the two ministers at Zurich airport before returning to New York, it added. "They had a discussion on the peace process in the Middle East," said the brief statement, which gave no details.

Israel expels 700 Palestinian workers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Police have thrown out 700 Palestinians caught working in Israel since the West Bank and Gaza were sealed off Sunday night after a suicide bombing killed 20 people, the authorities said Friday. Police said the illegals were fined \$150 and taken back to the occupied West Bank or autonomous Gaza Strip. Police also fined 120 Israeli employers several hundred dollars each. Before the bombing claimed by Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, some 50,000 Palestinian labourers had permits for Israel while between 10,000 and 20,000 more worked illegally.

Visit  
Al Dalal  
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## Arafat describes agreements with Jordan as cementing ties

PLO leader leaves after signing accords; Israel says move positive despite reference to Palestinian state

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Jordan sees accords as major step, states stand on passports

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat flew out early Friday after a two-day visit, describing the agreements Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed on Thursday as representing a major step in enhancing bilateral ties.

In an interview with Jordan Television Friday night on the issue of nationality and passport he said that the temporary passport given to the Palestinians did not imply nationality. He explained that the temporary passport was only a travel document to help the Palestinians continue normal living without hindrance.

The minister said that Jordan will continue this service as long as it is needed by the Palestinians and that the issuance of a Palestinian passport would not mean immediate withdrawal of the temporary passports. "There should be a transition period," he said.

As for Jordanians of Palestinian origin, the minister said, they are Jordanians with full rights and obligations and they have the right to choose any nationality they see fit. But dual nationality will not be acceptable, he said.

Mr. Beilin told Israel Radio. "But, apart from that, I think this agreement, also from our perspective, is not problematic, and in principle is even positive," he said.

However, Mr. Beilin also sought to advance an Israeli theme by suggesting that the agreement "could, in the

long term, lead to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation."

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Mr. Arafat signed a general agreement on political cooperation in a ceremony held at the Royal Palace and attended by His Majesty King Hussein and

(Continued on page 7)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bids farewell to Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako on Friday (Petra photo)

## Prince Naruhito, princess end visit to return home

Visit seen to reflect excellent ties

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Jordan on the third leg of a Middle East trip that was drawn up before the earthquake and leave on Sunday.

The Japanese side cited the urgent need for the prince and princess to be in Japan in view of the additional loss of life and emergency situation there as the reason for shorting their stay to 24 hours in Jordan," said an official source.

As a result of the changed schedule, Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor hosted a lunch in honour of the Japanese couple on Friday instead of a dinner planned for Saturday night.

Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako were seen off from Amman airport by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath. Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah and several members of the Royal family and senior officials, including Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the speakers of Parliament as well as Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda and diplomats.

The Japanese prince and princess took off at 4:45 p.m. and were headed for Singapore, where they were to make a short stop before continuing their way home.

The Japanese prince and princess were scheduled earlier to spend three days in

Naruhito.

Crown Prince Naruhito thanked Jordan for its expressions of concern and sympathy for the Japanese people and also expressed profound gratitude for the most timely provision of a large number of sleeping bags and tents for those affected by the earthquake."

Underlining the strong relations between the two countries, the Japanese prince paid tribute to Jordan's efforts for peace in the Middle East and said he had "the most profound admiration for the leadership" exerted by King Hussein and Prince Hassan.

Noting that visits paid by the King and the Crown Prince to Japan have "fostered warm friendship between our peoples," Prince Naruhito said Japan was "delighted to see Jordan week in Japan" in May when Crown Prince Hassan is also expected to visit Tokyo and Royal Jordanian (RJ) would launch direct flights between Jordan and Japan.

In speeches at the dinner, both crown princes expressed concern over the situation in Japan and the victims of the earthquake.

"I am deeply distressed with the great number of deceased and concerned over the large-scale suffering caused by the disastrous earthquake... in the Hanshin area," said Crown Prince

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## Amman agreements belated, but still could help push for Arab strategy

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

BY AGREEING on a joint strategy based on commitment to a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) have achieved a breakthrough in bilateral and inter-Arab relations.

But observers and analysts say that there are still many questions that need to be addressed particularly that such a joint strategy and co-operation agreement should have been reached before either side signed any agreement with Israel.

The political agreement and the seven protocols of cooperation in different fields were signed by the self-rule agreements, and Jordan has its own peace treaty to honour, the challenge will be how to reconcile

the limitations imposed by the self-rule accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel.

Jordan will have also taken into account its own peace treaty with Israel.

Consequently, it is a foregone conclusion, according to analysts and politicians from both sides, that Jordan and the Palestinians could have had

(Continued on page 7)

## Saleh says S. Arabia massed border troops

SANA (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdal-Saleh said Friday Saudi Arabia had massed troops on the border with Yemen and pulled them back after Sanaa intervened with the Saudi authorities.

The Saudis massed large numbers of troops on the Yemeni border Wednesday but after contacts between our delegation and their brothers in Saudi Arabia their troops pulled back 10 to 15 kilometres towards the Buka region, Mr. Saleh told the BBC's Arabic service.

He said the Saudis have moved two mechanised brigades and one armoured brigade towards the border.

Diplomats in the Gulf and political sources in Sanaa said earlier Saudi Arabia had massed troops, tanks and missile batteries along the southwestern part of its border with Yemen.

The troop movements followed renewed tension triggered by a Jan. 10 clash in which 40 Yemenis and 14 Saudis died, Western diplomats said.

"The Saudi forces could be seen with the naked eye"

near Al Buka, a northern Yemeni town with an airport, said.

Diplomats said there had been fresh Saudi troop movements on Tuesday and Wednesday involving more than 60 tanks near Al Buka, close to the disputed border area.

The diplomats also said at least 20 Saudi Apache attack helicopters were moved to a southern airbase at Khamis Musayt, while three naval boats arrived off Jizan on the Red Sea.

On Thursday, Yemeni officials said the Saudis had moved two mechanised brigades and one armoured brigade towards the border.

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"The Saudi forces could be seen with the naked eye"

## Rabin left trailing Netanyahu in polls

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's right-wing opposition leader Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin trailing an unprecedented 22 points behind in an opinion poll published Friday.

The joint strategy, as some officials and analysts see it, could be part of the recent Arab moves to counter the emergence of Israel as the dominant power broker in the region.

In other words, Arab officials have been saying privately, and some times even publicly, that Israel

(Continued on page 7)

## Israeli army storms Abu Dis Islamic college

ABU DIS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops stormed through an Islamic college on Friday, arresting students and ransacking dormitories in a crackdown against suspected militants following a suicide bombing earlier in the week.

Separate male and female quarters at the college of science and technology at Abu Dis, in the occupied West Bank, were a mess of broken windows, scattered clothes and X's spray-painted by the army on room doors to mark those already searched.

In a third survey, 64 per cent thought it was possible to separate Israelis from Palestinians on the West Bank, which Mr. Rabin has set as a long-term goal in a bid to halt the killings.

Ten per cent would vote for neither while 12 per cent voiced no opinion in the poll.

Politicians questioned 500 Israelis by telephone for each of the surveys, which had error margins of four per cent.

In the survey published in Yedioh Ahronot, 61 per cent of the surveyed said Mr. Rabin's televised speech on Monday, urging them to have faith in Israel's ultimate victory over its enemies, did not contribute to their sense of security and 19 per cent even said it made them feel worse.

Only 10 per cent said they felt encouraged by Mr. Rabin's assurances.

Women students, wearing traditional white beads-carves, said they bolted for the women's bathroom when the soldiers entered their quarters.

"They told us to go out, one by one," one said. "Girls — alone, (with) Jews around us."

At least 30 students were arrested, college officials said. The army said those arrested belonged to Islamic militant groups.

The pre-dawn raid was part of Israel's widening crackdown on hardliners after a suicide bombing Sunday that killed 20 Israelis, most of them teenage soldiers.

The college of science and technology at Abu Dis is known as a stronghold for Islamic fundamentalism and the Israeli army said those arrested were members of the Hamas movement and the Islamic Jihad group that claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack.

Muhammed Nusseibeh, director of the board of trustees at East Jerusalem's Al Quds University that runs the college, denied the institution was a cover for militant groups.

"People here have no time for activities outside their studies," Mr. Nusseibeh said, calling the raid unjustified.

"All of the students (came) out with bands like this," the student said, clasping them behind his head.

Women students, wearing traditional white beads-carves, said they bolted for the women's bathroom when the soldiers entered their quarters.

"I was wearing my pajamas when I heard a bomb and soldiers breaking into my room. They grabbed me by

the hair and told me to go inside the bathroom," said Maysa Alami, a 19-year-old biology major.

Students were questioned one by one. Some scuffled with the soldiers. The director of student affairs, Ziyad Abu Alal, said four women were lightly hurt and hospitalized.

Troops also searched the college library and two campus mosques, taking books, posters and magazines, students said. Reporters saw some 30 windows shattered, several broken door locks and mattresses strewn on the floor.

"This attack on an academic institution is unjustified and does not help the peace process," said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Iudeineh.

Dean of Science and Technology Mustafa Hamis said computers were also broken and estimated the damage at 100,000 shekels (\$33,000).

"The moral damage is more severe," he said. "They humiliates our female students."

The army said soldiers discovered "incendiary" material and offered to repair any damage. A military source said any unpleasantness was the result of a "belligerent population resisting arrests."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 7)



9th — defence chief  
General Delela Mousa  
is strong enough  
to be a leader. Delela Mousa  
is a member of the  
Jordanian National Red  
Crescent Society (JNRC)  
and the Jordanian Red  
Crescent Society (JRCS).  
The JRCS has  
opened a radiology section  
at the JNRC hospital in Amman.  
The section was equipped  
through contributions  
from the Japanese government  
and the Japanese Red Cross  
Society. The equipment  
presented to the hospital,  
worth about \$210,000,  
includes X-ray machines,  
incubators, and ultrasound  
machines.



## Britain pledges help with Jordan's foreign debt

LONDON (Petra) — British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg told a visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation that his country understands the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy and will continue to help endeavours to deal with its foreign debt.

Mr. Hogg expressed Britain's concern over Israel's nuclear weapons and said that London was continuing to apply pressure on the Jewish state to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He also voiced his country's call on Israel to halt its Jewish settlement programme in Arab lands and to arrange for Palestinian elections in implementation of the requirements of the peace

process.

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Senator Marwan Hmoud, told Mr. Hogg that Jordan was continually facing economic, financial and political pressures as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Hmoud called on Britain to extend economic and financial assistance to the Kingdom to help it cope with its heavy burdens.

Discussion also covered the democratic process in the Kingdom, Jordan's peace treaty with Israel and economic matters.

The Jordanian delegation had visited the British parliament and met with members of the ruling Conservative and the opposition Labour parties for similar discussions.



Marwan Hmoud

Douglas Hogg

## Israeli-Arabs, ICRC pledge new efforts to help people of Chechnya

By Cathy King

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The Jordanian Committee for the Support of the People of the Independent Caucasian Republic of Chechnya (JCSCP) has

launched a new appeal requesting medical supplies, medicine and medical equipment for the people of Chechnya.

The request for humanitarian aid aims to "reduce the suffering of a small Muslim people exposed to unjust aggression," said a statement signed by JCSCP Chairman Said Bino.

Meanwhile a delegation of Israeli-Arabs visited the JCSCP centre in Sweileh Thursday to learn more about the situation in Chechnya, Mr. Bino told the Jordan Times.

The delegation, headed

by Um Al Fahm Mayor Ra'ed Salah, has pledged support for the Chechen cause and said that he would endeavour to collect humanitarian aid, Mr. Bino said.

"The delegation is willing to cooperate with the committee here and is planning to collect donations to help those suffering in Chechnya," Mr. Bino added.

Mr. Bino said that long-term assistance is also required to redevelop the damaged areas in the Caucasian republic which has been under attack by Russian forces for over six weeks.

According to Mr. Bino, the Arab-Israeli delegation intends to hold peaceful demonstrations during the month of Ramadan in various towns in Israel to highlight the plight of the

Chechen people.

In the meantime, the ICRC announced Thursday it had launched a tracing programme to locate missing family members and has begun to set up a network for the exchange of family news.

A statement said that the civilian population in Chechnya has no means of communication. Displaced persons inside Chechnya and those that have fled to the neighbouring Republic of Ingushetia and Dagestan are impossible to contact, the statement added.

"(ICRC) delegates are coordinating their efforts with the civilian authorities of every district in Chechnya and with the local Red Cross and Red Crescent that collect and distribute the messages," the statement explained.

Communication facilities (postal and telephone services) are still operational in Ingushetia and Dagestan, allowing contacts with the outside world.

## ESCWA introduces work plan to establish 'business incubators'

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) presented a work plan to establish a "business or industrial incubator" for women entrepreneurs during a lecture Thursday at the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

The business incubator, a new concept to help small businesses get started, provides a setting where small enterprises can use industrial machinery rather than making costly capital expenditure to purchase such equipment.

The work plan suggested establishing a task force to provide overall guidance. This task force would consist of representatives from ESCWA, the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other potential sponsors.

The plan suggested undertaking a sample field survey of women's entrepreneurial profiles and needs, women's characteristics, and support and advisory services needed. The sample would cover existing and potential entrepreneurs.

The plan also recommended assessing the role

and impact of selected Jordanian institutions involved in the development, promotion and support for small enterprises.

In addition, the plan also implied designing the incubator on the basis of the results of the field survey as well as on the assessment made of Jordanian institutions.

The work plan proposed finding a location of the business incubator preparing a business plan and organising a workshop for prospective tenants and sponsors.

Zohra Merabet, regional programme advisor for UNIFEM, said that a survey was recently conducted on 750 women from banks, commercial sectors and associations such as the BPWC to help design an incubation system.

"The objective of this study was to assess the needs and problems of women entrepreneurs in Jordan," Ms. Merabet said addressing the participants who represented banks, ministers and the industrial sectors.

According to Ms. Merabet, the study revealed several important facts concerning women who own and operate small businesses.

One, she pointed out is that 44 per cent of the businesses are sole ownership, 65 per cent of the

businesses were less than five-years-old, 47.5 per cent of the women who own businesses were between the ages of 30 to 39, and 46 per cent of the women surveyed had a university degree.

According to Ms. Merabet, the study concluded that women entrepreneurs are still invisible in the Jordanian economy, and that the existing data base should be used for further statistical analysis of managerial aspects and listed problems.

In addition, Ms. Merabet said, the result of the survey does not apply to all women entrepreneurs in Jordan; "it is rather an indication where we can move within a specific framework."

During the lecture, Zaki Ayoubi, the economic advisor at the BPWC, listed the requirements for a business incubator.

"One of the main demands for this project to succeed is having Jordanian government institutions such as the Amman Municipality and others support and adopt the project," Dr. Ayoubi said.

In addition, he said, capital is another requirement.

Finding a suitable location and running the project as if it is a business project with legislation governing the project, he

A waste water treatment plant in Jerash

## Water ministry to sign agreement to boost treatment plant efficiency

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will sign an agreement with a consortium of local and foreign companies to carry out a project to boost the efficiency of the Khrbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant near Zarqa, according to Saleh Israeil, minister of water and irrigation.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the plant Thursday, the minister said that the \$10.0 million project will be financed from a grant from

million and will be financed from a soft loan from the German government. The laying of the pipeline will take an entire year.

In justifying the measures, the minister said that population growth in the Amman region has brought about additional pressure on the Khrbet Al Samra plant.

The plant, which was built by the Jordanian government at the cost of JD 17 million in 1985, was designed to treat 6,800 cubic metres of waste effluent per day, but

according to the minister, the effluent has increased to 191 per cent in 1994, causing more concentration of organic substances to appear in the treated water coming out from the plant.

The ministry also plans to build installations at Ain Ghazal plant to boost its performance, minimise the stench from the plant and better absorb the effluent arriving there from the greater Amman area, said Dr. Israeil.

## Seminar reviews study on reality of women's lives

AMMAN (Petra) — More than 20 prominent professional women participated in a seminar on the reality of Jordanian women's lives at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development.

The seminar, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and organised by the coordinating office for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September, was part of a study on the situation of women in Jordan conducted by a team of experts led by researcher Nawal Hashisho and Sociologist Sari Nasser.

The study will be presented at the women's conference and includes an evaluation of

## Council approves new food, medicine plants

AMMAN (Petra) — The Development Council, recently formed by the Cabinet, has approved four new projects as certified economic schemes, entitling them to exemptions from customs duty and other privileges, according to Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif.

The minister said the projects, which will have a total capital of JD 6.5 million are considered useful to the economy, particularly to the country's agro-industry.

According to Mr. Ben Tarif, one of the projects involves the establishment

plant to produce frozen French fried and mashed potatoes. The plant is expected to cost of JD 3 million.

Another similar plant will produce cooked and frozen French fried potatoes. It is expected to cost of JD 2 million. Two other plants will produce veterinary medicines; one is to be located at Qastal and have a JD 1 million capital, the other is to be set up at Sahab Industrial City at a cost of JD 500,000.

The minister said he expects such projects will cut imports of similar products.

## Jordan Cancer Society to begin nation-wide awareness campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — The health awareness committee of the Jordan Cancer Society (JCS) will start a nation-wide campaign to promote the importance of early detection and medical check-ups in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Committee Chairman Sami Ahmad Khadib said the campaign includes lectures, slide

shows and seminars to be conducted at secondary schools for girls, universities and women's societies in the country.

The campaign which is to be launched shortly, will focus on educating women on how to conduct breast self-examinations to check for breast tumours, Dr. Khatib told the Jordan Times.

Nearly 90 per cent of the women in the Kingdom do not conduct regular self-

examinations; often breast cancer is discovered too late, said Dr. Khatib.

The campaign will urge women to see their doctors if they suspect anything unusual or detect any unusual growths or bleeding, said Dr. Khatib.

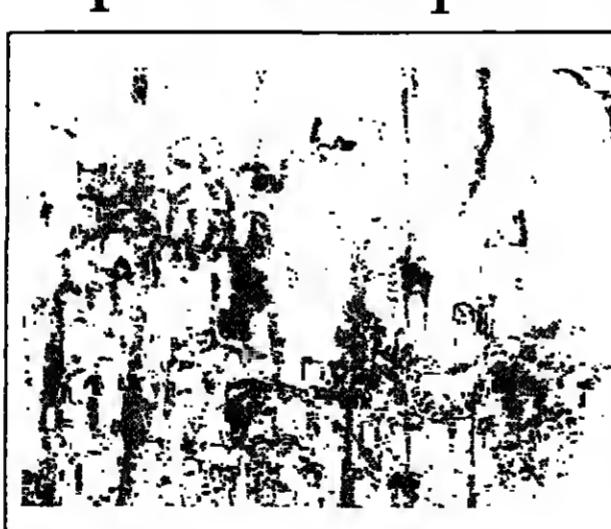
The committee plans to extend its campaign to hospitals where committee specialists will lecture nurses on what Dr. Khatib called the "management of pain" and the treatment of cancer pa-

## First art exhibition opens in Aqaba

AMMAN — Aqaba's first art exhibition, with 20 paintings by Syrian artist Hala Mahayni, Friday was opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Raja Bint Ali. The organiser of the exhibition, gallery owner Khalid Dawud from Fuheis, told the Jordan Times that the exhibition will run for a month, and that it will be followed by more exhibitions, each lasting a month of Arab and European artists.

Mr. Dawud said he "regrets that there is no cultural life outside Amman," for in his view, "people must have access to art."

He opened the exhibition in Aqaba because he wanted to bring art to Aqaba residents and because he felt that visitors to the Red Sea Port,



Painting by Hala Mahayni

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

★ Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ya Sam'een" (Ye Who Are Hearing) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Has the Political and Economic Role of the Arab Oil Really Gone?" by Dr. Mamduh Salameh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

### FOOD BAZAAR

★ Food bazaar (including cakes, mastouf, pickles, labaneh and zaatar, lemonade, and orangeade, and others) at the Al Ahliyyah School, Jabal Amman on Sunday (11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

### NOVEL RECITAL

★ Novel recital by novelist Yousef Damra at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of pastel, watercolour, oil paintings and photography by Jordanian artist Maral Mahredjian at the Watani Sporting Club, Amman.

★ Photographic exhibition entitled "To Be or Not to Be — Industry Destroys Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Mohammad Labadi at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.

★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhri Muhammad at the Ab'd Art Gallery.

## Christopher blasts Republican bid to reduce peacekeeping role

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the new congressional majority that its attempt to cut back U.S. involvement in U.N. peacekeeping risks leaving the United States with a choice between "acting alone or doing nothing."

With blunt language, Mr. Christopher also said Thursday that a Republican proposal to require congressional approval to send American troops aboard in a U.N. operation under a foreign commander "is unconstitutional, and it is certainly, in my judgment, very bad policy."

The partisan tension among members of the House International Relations Committee, formerly the Foreign Affairs Committee, was clear even before Mr. Christopher began his review of the administration's foreign policy.

Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, who chaired the panel when the Democrats were in the majority, complained to

his successor, Rep. Ben Gilman of New York, that the Democrats hadn't yet seen the latest version of the National Security Revitalization Act.

Mr. Hamilton said he'd like to delay committee consideration of the bill until next week but conceded that "you and the leadership want to proceed with markup tomorrow, so I think we have to accept that."

Mr. Christopher said the legislation would "deal peacekeeping a lethal blow."

He said the result would be "financial chaos" as other nations, including the NATO allies and Japan, almost certainly would follow suit. "Under current circumstances, it would threaten to end U.N. peacekeeping overnight."

"It would leave us an unacceptable option of only the choice between acting alone or doing nothing when emergencies occur," said Christopher.

## Vietnam, U.S. to settle property row

HANOI (R) — The United States will settle property claims with Hanoi and is expected to open its first diplomatic mission in Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975 Saturday, officials said Friday.

Two agreements on property will be signed in Hanoi, an authorised Vietnamese source said.

The signing will clear the way for the two governments to open liaison offices in Hanoi and Washington which will serve as embassies in all but name.

The accords will be a landmark in the slow normalisation of relations between the Communist government in Hanoi, which won the war, and the United States, which backed the losing South Vietnamese regime in Saigon, since renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

One will cover over 30 U.S. government buildings in Ho Chi Minh City, including the embassy from whose roof helicopters lifted Americans and Vietnamese in a last-minute evacuation before Communist forces seized Saigon on April 30, 1975.

Vietnam's state oil firm Petrovietnam has been using the former embassy and is moving out, officials say.

Apparently because Vietnam is a sensitive subject for a Clinton administration facing a Republican-dominated Congress, U.S. officials in Hanoi refused to confirm the U.S. liaison office would open Saturday.

When it does, a low-key opening is expected.

Conservative U.S. politicians, some war veterans' groups and families of more than 2,000 U.S. servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in Indochina oppose President Bill Clinton's moves to improve relations with Vietnam.

Last February, he lifted a 30-year-old economic embargo against Hanoi but said further steps towards normalisation — such as full diplomatic relations — depended on progress in the U.S. campaign to determine the fate of the MIAs.

The Vietnamese source said the second agreement to be signed Saturday would cover private property claims.

It was not known if this meant the two sides had settled claims to commercial property on which the U.S. government has been negotiating with Hanoi on behalf of companies — mostly big oil firms — whose Saigon offices were seized in 1975.

Sources close to the talks said earlier that progress had been made on the commercial property claims, worth about \$230 million, and blocked financial assets which include \$350 million in Saigon government money held in U.S. banks.

There has been no news of an agreement on these complex issues, and details of the accords to be signed Saturday were not released.

The diplomatic property deal is expected to cover Vietnam's take-over of the old South Vietnam embassy in Washington.

## Kashmir city shuts down to protest lack of security

JAMMU, India (R) — The Kashmiri city of Jammu came to a standstill Friday in protest against security forces' failure to prevent bombings which killed eight people and injured 60 during an Indian Republic Day parade.

Shops and businesses closed, schoolchildren stayed at home and roads were almost empty as people answered a call by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for a one-day general strike.

Jammu, winter capital of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir, is home to many of the Hindus in India's only Muslim majority state.

Indian paramilitary police stepped up patrols around the city after three blasts ripped through Jammu's Maulana Azad Stadium Thursday, killing six security men and two government officials.

The pro-Pakistan militant group, Hizballah, claimed responsibility for the blasts, which slightly injured the state governor as he addressed 15,000 people. Several senior state government officials were also injured.

Muslim Pakistan rules one third of the Himalayan region and has fought two of its three wars with India since independence from Britain in 1947 over control of the area.

The secessionist rebellion in Kashmir, now in its fifth year, has claimed more than

## 2 people die in U.S. shooting

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)

— A law student randomly fired a semiautomatic rifle as he walked a street near the University of North Carolina, killing two people and wounding at least two others.

Police shot the gunman in the legs. He was then tackled by a bystander who was shot in the struggle.

The wounded — the man who tackled the gunman, a police officer and another student — were taken to a hospital. None suffered life-threatening injuries, authorities said.

The shooting spree, which started around 2 p.m. Thursday, shook the 200-year-old University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which has about 24,400 students.

"He was shooting at me, he was shooting at random, and he was shooting at anybody he saw," said attorney Boh Epting, 50. "He looked like he was on his way to his own death."

One man, a student on a bike, was gunned down in front of a sorority house. Another man was killed a half-block away on the steps of the rooming house where he lived. Police said the man near the sorority house was a student and it wasn't immediately clear if the other victim also was. Police weren't releasing the victim's names pending notification of their families.

The gunman worked his way up the street to the post office building across the street from the university.

Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox said the man fired 10 to 15 rounds from a semiautomatic M-1, including several into the back of the post office building, which also contains his offices and a courtroom.

Authorities offered no motive.

"What happened up there is not something that any reasonable person could understand," Police Chief Ralph Pendergraph said.

Wendell Williamson, 26, a third-year law student, was charged with two counts of murder, police said.

Ecuador and Peru have

boosted their troop presence

along the border at tensions

have mounted in the border

area over the last few weeks,

Ecuadorian officials said.

In the border city of Tumbes, some 600 miles (1,000 km) north of Lima, heavy vehicles were being employed to transport Peruvian troops to the border area, according to reports.

Ecuador had warned Lima that a fresh violation could have "grave" consequences.

An Ecuadorian army officer in the region told a local radio station that if other aircraft were spotted flying over Ecuadorian territory, troops "have been ordered to act."

Troops of both nations were put on a higher state of alert after two incidents this month, including an exchange of gunfire, prompted by each nation's claim to the jungle patch of gold.

Ecuador said patrols of both armies had clashed inside Ecuadorian territory on Thursday afternoon.

At the same time, Peruvian Foreign Minister Efrain Gutierrez denied Ecuadorian accusations that Peruvian military helicopters had violated Ecuadorian airspace.

The Peruvian Armed Forces are carrying out patrols and supply missions in Peruvian territory within the limits established by the (1942) Protocol of Rio De Janeiro," he said.

The diplomatic property deal is expected to cover Vietnam's take-over of the old South Vietnam embassy in Washington.



Firefighters and divers are patrolling on a raft to rescue inhabitants that might be trapped by rains of the past days. Water rose to 1.50 metre high in some places of the city (AFP photo)

## 18 die as rain, snowstorms lash Europe

LONDON (R) — At least 18

people died as blizzards and record rain swept northern Europe, six of them children killed when winds toppled a crane onto a French school.

Vast areas of Germany,

France and the Netherlands

were under water Thursday

and snowstorms paralysed

northern England. Weather

forecasters said more rain

and snow were on the way,

threatening further chaos and

possible crop damage.

Rainfall in western France

has been the heaviest for 150

years and 12 people died

there in flood-related acci-

dents.

A man collapsed and died

in the snow walking to his

House in Leeds Wednesday

night, and another after

abandoning his car near the

city at 14 inches (35 cm) of

snow fell overnight.

Thousands of motorists

were trapped on blocked

roads and police and ambu-

lances were at full stretch.

"The snow has brought abso-

lute chaos everywhere," a

police spokesman said.

A 20-year-old Swedish

woman was killed in an ava-

lanche while skiing off piste

in the Norwegian mountains.

Rescuers dug her out and

flown her to Lillehammer Hos-

pit where she died.

Rivers burst their banks in

southern Belgium, flooding

roads and houses, but the

damage was not expected to

be as severe as in the damag-

ing December 1993 floods,

officials said.

In contrast, Portuguese

farmers complained cereal

croplands would be damaged un-

less there was substantial rain

in the next two weeks. Clear

weather also brought damag-

ing frosts at night.

Northern Spain was hit by

heavy rainstorms. But reser-

voirs in southern Andalusia

were at a record low levels

and lack of snow in the Sierra

Nevada caused postpone-

ment of next week's Skiing

Championships there.

## China police rescue 500 sold women

BEIJING (R) — Police in Inner Mongolia have rescued more than 500 women abducted from across China and sold to local peasants as wives, the People's Daily said Friday. Such campaigns are underway across China in the runup to next week's Lunar New Year holiday, the country's biggest, the official newspaper said. Police in Inner Mongolia broke up 33 abduction gangs in 1994, arresting 168 gang members and rescuing 487 women and their children, it reported. In a stepped-up pre-holiday campaign this month, police in the northern province said the liberated 37 more women aged 16 to 24 and assigned five officers to escort them home to Sichuan province to the south, it said. In a parallel crackdown reported in last week in Shanxi province in the north, police said they rescued more than 200 women in just three days and returned them to their hometowns. Abduction of women for sale as wives is common, especially in remote and backward areas where large numbers of men must compete for a shrinking pool of eligible women. The skewed sex ratio has resulted from the migration of rural women eager to take better jobs in China's cities as well as the traditional Chinese preference for male offspring. Since ultrasound machines arrived in China 15 years ago, growing numbers of peasants have been able to screen the sex of their foetuses and to abort those found to be female, a modern version of the traditional scourge of female infanticide.

## Billionaire reclaims Getty in secret wedding

LONDON (R) — John Paul Getty II, the reclusive billionaire who has been dogged in equal measure by wealth and death, has married his companion of 20 years whom he once said had been his inspiration in life. "I got married on Dec. 29, in Barbados," the 62-year-old philanthropist said in a terse statement to the media. Getty's one-time love of heroin and rum has been usurped by a passion for cricket and old books. He has credited his long-time companion Victoria Holdsworth, once a fashion model, for the turnaround. "I owe everything, repeat everything, to Victoria. She has been my inspiration, you could say," he once said.

A spokesman for Getty said: "It's true. The wedding took place in Barbados on Dec. 29 last year. Life pre-Holdsworth was tumultuous even in the best of times. Both have been married before. Getty's first marriage ended in divorce. His second wife died of a drug overdose in 1971 and he was swiftly cut out of his father's will, left with just \$500. His grandmother stepped into the breach and left Getty a fortune that is estimated at \$1.6 billion (\$2.55 billion)."

Tragedy continued, however, when his son Paul was seized by Italian kidnappers in 1971. Getty could not afford to pay the ransom and appealed to his father. Only when Paul's ear arrived at the offices of a Rome newspaper did Getty senior pay the \$1.25 million. Paul suffered a drug-induced stroke a decade later, leaving him paralysed and nearly blind. One of Getty's daughters has contracted AIDS, said the newspaper. The hasty reclusive left the United States and moved to England in the 1970s, becoming a legendary philanthropist who recently donated \$1 million (\$1.59 million) to keep Canova's Three Graces statue in Britain.

## Simpson trial draws up to 30% of Americans

LOS ANGELES (R) — The first three days of the O.J. Simpson trial proved to be a winner for the television networks, with up to 30 per cent of Americans tuned in to live coverage of what has been called the murder trial of the century, a ratings analyst said.

He said he could not accept that anyone could have been convicted for minor acts of protest such as playing a guitar, singing or reciting a poem as human rights activists.

"The truth of these cases is not so simple as just playing a guitar and then getting thrown in prison," he said, describing China's courts as "serious and prudent."

If the courts were cavalier, the numbers and percentage of jailed counter-revolutionaries would be higher, he said, noting that only 0.2 per cent of China's 1.285 million prisoners were serving time for counter-revolutionary acts.

He said China's 2,679 jailed



## Jordan Times

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### A step in the right direction

AFTER A troubled period of uneasy relations — though for no fault of Jordan's — the Kingdom and the Palestinian leadership have signed a number of agreements that are aimed at institutionalising the various aspects of relations between the two peoples. This is a positive step whose significance no one should ignore. However, it remains a first step that only through honest and committed implementation could it serve the overall causes of the two brethren peoples.

The signing of the agreements came after a long delay mainly on behalf of the Palestinian leadership. Jordan has always confessed the inseparability of Jordanian-Palestinian interests. It also believed these interests should be coordinated within an institutionalised framework that can guarantee the durability of any joint effort to promote those interests. Hence was Jordan's insistence on reaching agreements that would leave no room for ambiguity in regulating its ties with its brethren across the river.

That the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership has took so long to sign agreements already reached early last year only delayed the initiation of joint work to further the interests of the sides. Now that the Jordanians and Palestinians can boost eight accords that cover most areas of cooperation between them, the two peoples can expect a steady process for the improvement of their relations — assuming that goodwill will always prevail to ensure the implementation of these accords.

It is a foregone conclusion that better Jordanian-Palestinian ties would be a trump card that would help both sides in their negotiations with Israel. Such card the Palestinians need more in light of the troubles their talks with the Jewish state are facing. By maintaining good ties with Jordan, the Palestinian leadership can tap the unwavering support that the Kingdom has always extended to the Palestinian people. The Palestinians can always call on Jordan, a state with developed institutions and experience in state building, for all sorts of help in erecting the institutions of the self-rule Palestinian areas as well as in carrying out their negotiations with Israel.

Jordan has always stood by the Palestinian people — politically and economically — even when official ties with the PLO were at a low ebb. That it did because it saw in maintaining good relations with the Palestinians a strategic interest not only for the two sides but also for the whole Arab Nation. Strong ties with the Palestinians have been for the Kingdom a priority above the political requirements, and differences, of given eras and temporary circumstances. Such support will be more productive now that the relations between the two sides have been regulated and put in an institutionalised framework. For the benefit of the two people, these agreements should be respected, implemented and expanded upon.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS clear from the government's policy statement, delivered by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to Parliament Wednesday, that due attention will be given to domestic affairs in the present stage in accordance with the directives contained in His Majesty the King's letter to the government, said Al Ra'i daily. The statement clearly displayed the government's intention to pursue the process of reform, the deepening of the democratic process and opening of channels of dialogue with political parties and professional organisations and various public sectors. In fact, close cooperation with the legislative authority to achieve this goal is of paramount necessity, added the paper. The government's determination to bolster the security services and the armed forces reflects its intention of ensuring stability the country's development, said the daily. The paper called on the government to give due concern to the problems of poverty and unemployment and to exert efforts towards guaranteeing social security and introducing a comprehensive health system for the public. The paper lauded the government for its declared intention to mend fences with Arab countries and pursue efforts towards ensuring a comprehensive peace in the region.

SALEH AL Qabbab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the agreements signed by the Jordanians and the Palestinians are of paramount importance for regulating bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, social and political fields. But, he said, what is more important is the implementation of these agreements with good intentions and in brotherly and cordial spirit. For Jordanians and Palestinians, the signing of the agreements is a source of pride as the development marks one more milestone in the drive towards cementing bilateral relations as demanded by the masses on the two sides of the Jordan River. There is no doubt that the recent developments in the region have made it incumbent on the two sides to embark on serious measures to ensure strong relationship and serve their national goals, he said. The agreements, signed in Amman, he said, will surely secure the attainment of this objective.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Jordanian-PLO accords key accomplishment for both sides

IT TOOK Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) more than one year to ultimately finalise an agreement on broad cooperation, including economic links between the two banks of the River Jordan. The documents that were signed in Amman on Thursday signify a key accomplishment for both sides in terms of material cooperation.

By all counts, the provisions in the economic agreement largely address the basic concerns of the two sides although perhaps not to the perfect satisfaction of either: it may not be a worthy exercise to debate the technical aspects of the agreement, but it is clear that it has built-in safeguards for the interests of both sides. Take for instance the continued circulation of the Jordanian dinar in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the currency for all dealings of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and one of the currencies in use in the territories along with others, with the provision that neither side would undertake any measure that might undermine the currency of the other (after the issuance of a new Palestinian currency as the PNA is boping for).

The continued use of the Jordanian curricula in schools in the West Bank and Gaza as provided for in the agreement on cooperation in education is also another cornerstone that consolidates the relations between the two banks, along with the other protocols on transport, communication, culture and information as well as administrative issues.

As far as we are concerned in Jordan, we are aware that the Palestinian signatories to the agreements do not yet enjoy the status of elected representatives of the Palestinian people, but we are willing to respect their signatures in good faith and hope that they would live up to the commitments they made in the accords. In any event, the documents have to pass through the constitutional process in Jordan by securing the approval of the Council of Ministers first and then Parliament before His Majesty King Hussein issues a royal decree endorsing them. We would have liked to see the Palestinian side going through a similar process, fully legalising the agreements, but given the realities on the ground in the West Bank and Gaza today, we will have to be contend with the present arrangements.

It is no secret that the signing of the agreements came as the result of a belated realisation on the part of the Palestinian leadership that Jordan offers perhaps the strongest safety valves at a time when pressure from all quarters is mounting on Mr. Arafat and his colleagues in the PNA cabinet. It is not simply a question of the PLO leadership needing Jordan now than ever, but it is a reality that Jordan was always there to support the Palestinian people and that the PLO leadership has perhaps come to realise and genuinely appreciate the Kingdom's position now. Hopefully, for the sake of both sides, it is the case.

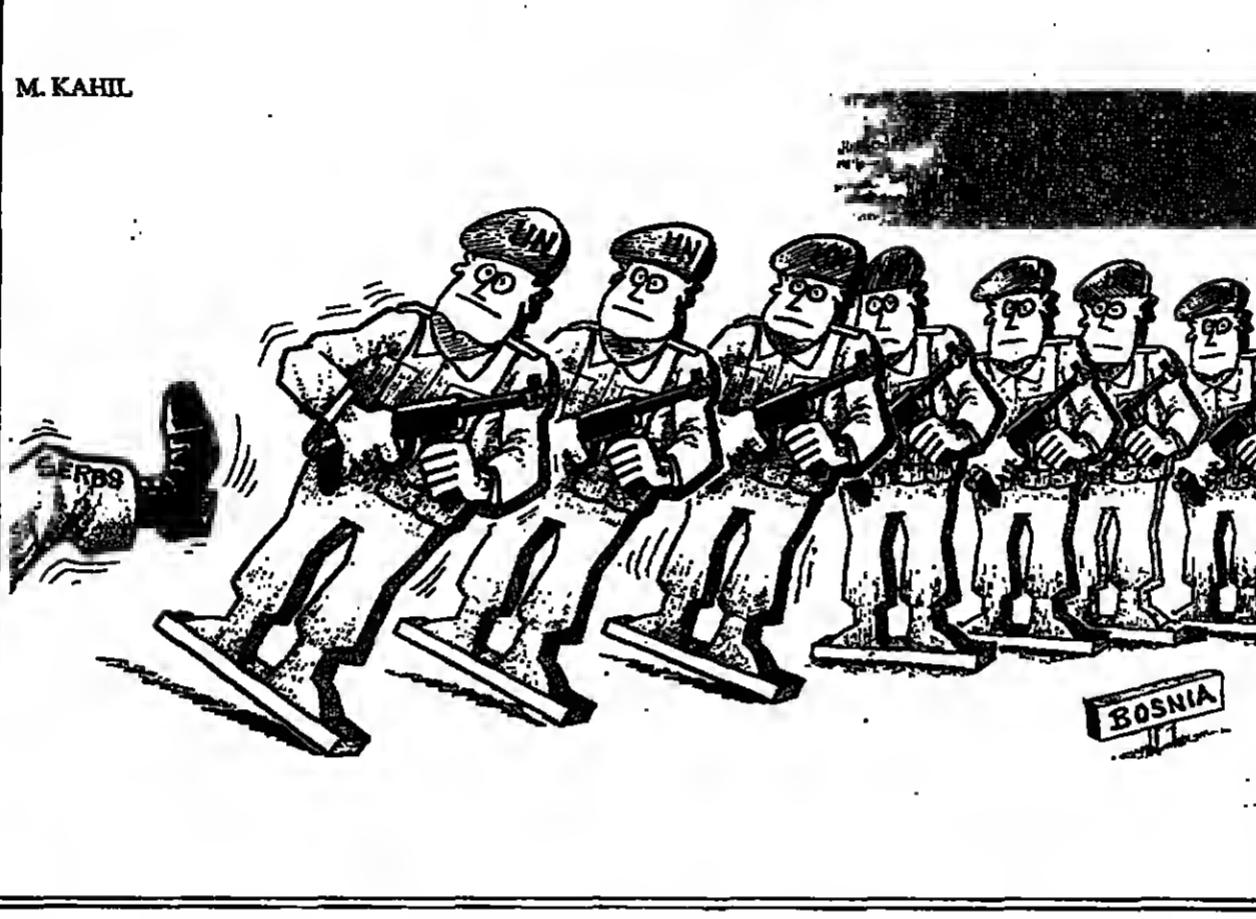
As we understood so far, the Palestinian side found that

Jerusalem remained "hanging" in the air as Mr. Arafat wound up his talks here with His Majesty King Hussein. But that is not the way we read the situation.

By virtue of his signing the "memorandum of understanding and cooperation" with Jordan on Thursday, Mr. Arafat has accepted the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty "as an important step ... and cornerstone towards" achieving Arab rights. Now, it would mean, for all technical purposes, a Palestinian acceptance of the provisions of the treaty, which recognises Jordan's "special" role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem. Obviously, in return for that acceptance, Jordan reaffirmed its continue support for the Palestinian struggle for independence and pledged all backing for the Palestinian quest to set up an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. As such, we find little room for the arguments that we hear from some Palestinian quarters that the Jordanian-Palestinian controversy over Jerusalem had not been solved; unless of course Mr. Arafat was holding out for a major Jordanian concession in some other area that we are not privy to yet.

As far as we in Jordan are concerned, we mean it when we say that Jordan would relinquish its role in Jerusalem once the Palestinians gain sovereignty over the Holy City. For our own sake and the sake of the Islamic faith, we cannot agree to leave a vacuum in Jerusalem that would benefit no one but Israel at this point in time. That is our bottom line and we stick by that.

M. KAHIL



## Agreement between Jordan, Palestinians a step towards integration

By Elia Nasrallah

AL RA'I daily described the agreement signed by the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships as steps towards integration and unity between Jordan and Palestine, setting a unique example for other Arab states to follow. The paper expressed hope that the accords will pave the way for the two sides to work together towards ending Israel's occupation and regaining usurped Arab rights in Palestine.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the accords give Jordan and Palestine freedom of movement independently from Israel's hegemony. Jordan's announcement that it will open a representation office in Gaza was a clear sign that the Jordanian leaderships will remain committed to helping the Palestinians in their drive to establish their rule and achieve independence for the Palestine state, said Mohammad Kawash. The writer said the Arab countries ought to follow Jordan's footsteps and offer the Palestinians all the help they need at this stage.

Al Safadi, a columnist in Al Dustour, expressed optimism that 1995 will be the year of reconciliation among Arab states, noting that the year started with Egyptian-Jordanian and Jordanian-Palestinian summit.

Both summits led to improved and stronger relations between the Arab states neighbouring Israel, said the writer. On the other fronts, Jordan and Oman held summit meetings and the Yemeni and the Qatari leaderships are preparing further meetings aimed at bolstering inter-Arab ties, he added. The Arab states are called on to use a common political language and embark on collective efforts in the face of the present stage and vis-à-vis Israel's policies, said the writer.

Apart from closing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the wake of the suicide bombing near Tel Aviv, Israel has accused Syria and Iran of being behind the violence. said

Ahmad Misteh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The writer said that Israel has complained to the United Nations, alleging that the acts of violence are perpetrated abroad but ignoring the fact that its occupation of Arab land was the cause of the whole issue. The writer said that Israel wants to divert world public attention from the real problem of occupation and at the same time pursue its expansionist programmes and perpetuate its colonisation of the Arab lands.

Israel's decision to separate the Palestinians from the Israelis means demarcating the borders of the future Palestine state, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i. Sooner or later, the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will come to the conclusion that the best and most guaranteed security for Israel lies in giving the Palestinians their full rights within their own state, said the writer. The Palesti-

nians, said the writer, can only be appeased when they regain their rights. The 19 Israeli killed in the suicide bombing were the victims of the continued occupation of Arab territories, according to a writer in Al Ra'i. Under an atmosphere of injustice and continued occupation, acts of violence are bound to spread Israel's oppression and intent on killing Arabs can only draw further violence, which is harmful to the cause of peace, said Mahmoud Rimawi. With more victims falling as a result of violence and counter violence, deeper feelings of hatred are bound to take root and just peace would remain illusive.

In the face of Israel's adamantine position with regard to the implementation of the Oslo agreements, which call for redeployment of Israeli forces and local Palestinian elections, the Palestinian leadership ought to raise this question not only with the co-

### THE WEEK IN PRINT

should consider the Israeli step a blessing, albeit temporarily painful, under the present circumstances, said the writer.

Fadel Al Fanek, a writer in Al Ra'i, attacked Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for calling on the Palestinians and the Jordanians to forge a confederation. In his book, "The New Middle East", Mr. Peres tries to present the situation in the region as one that can be dealt with through confederal between Jordan and Palestine, with the Israelis keeping control of the land and allowing the Palestinians only to deal economically and socially with Jordan, said the writer.

The writer said that Israel wants the Palestinians and the Jordanians to form a confederation in which the Palestinians will be the majority, implying that Jordan would serve as a substitute Palestinian state.

Commenting on the government policy statement

presented to Parliament for a vote of confidence, Taher Adwan said that a successful government is one whose objectives are set clearly and one which carries out its promises to the people. A successful government can only win public support if its rule is conducted in participation with the people's representatives, he said. To be successful, the government must respond to demands of Parliament, which represents the people.

Issa Shueibi said in a column in Al Dustour that the Israeli decision to separate the Palestinians from the Israelis would bring about immense hardships not only for the Palestinians but also for the Israelis. The closure of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip means recognition of a Palestinian entity and this concept outweighs the hardships the Palestinians are expected to face from now on, said the writer. The Palestinians, who have offered many sacrifices for their freedom,

presented to Parliament for a vote of confidence, Taher Adwan said that a successful government is one whose objectives are set clearly and one which carries out its promises to the people. A successful government can only win public support if its rule is conducted in participation with the people's representatives, he said. To be successful, the government must respond to demands of Parliament, which represents the people.

Mohammad Sabehi criticised the traffic police for their frequent stopping of cars on the roads to check their licences, saying that frequent stopping of cars tends to cause congestions and confusion. The writer said to a column in Al Dustour that though the Traffic Department aims at ensuring safety for the road users, these measures can by no means achieve the desired goal. In civilised societies, a traffic policeman does not stop a car unless the driver is in violation of traffic rules. But in Jordan, traffic police stop cars several times in the same street only to examine the licences, noted the writer.

At the same time, the traffic police seldom stop the mini-buses for speeding and endangering people's lives, he added.

A writer in Sawt Al Shaab drew attention to the manipulation of prices by the wholesale merchants in Jordan, citing the prices of coffee as an example. Nazih Qousi said that the merchants have failed to respond to public demands and refused to bring down coffee prices following their decline on world markets with the intention of making as much profit as possible.

The merchants' behaviour clearly indicates that they have close and wide influence over the government's decision makers, especially the Ministry of Supply. The writer said that the Jordanians are clearly witnessing a weak performance by the Ministry of Supply, which has always claimed that it aims at defending consumers' rights in the face of merchants' greed.

The stoppings does not end there. Incredibly, Victor describes the Lebanese Phalange (whose right-wing origins lay in the 1936 Ber-

By Dr. Musa Kelani

Hanan Ashrawi: A Passion for Peace Fourth Estate

Barbara Victor

IT IS difficult to find words to describe this book. It is so irredeemably dreadful that one can hardly do anything but list its faults: its factual inaccuracies, its bias, its hopeless version of Middle East history. Victor claims that she has written an "even-handed account" of the Palestinian uprising and the peace process, an assertion that strains credibility to its limits.

It is not just its intrinsic prejudice that makes this book so hard to take seriously, "although that is as good a place as any to start. Throughout, Palestinians murder, stab and burn to death innocent Israelis while Baruch Goldstein, the Israeli settler who slaughtered 29 Palestinians in Hebron last year, is held up as an extreme example" of a settler who went on a "rampage." So when is a rampage not a rampage? When it is carried out by a Palestinian, of course, in which case it is a "terrorist" act or an act of "terror," words which Victor uses 76 times in 275 pages — more than once every four pages and all but once about Palestinians.

Israelis who kill Palestinians are occasionally "death squads" but usually "soldiers" and often "commandos." Israel's Phalange militia allies who butchered hundreds of Palestinian civilians in Beirut in 1982 are respectfully referred to by Victor as "soldiers."

If the author cannot avoid double standards, however, what excuse is there for her shoddy grasp of facts? She says that the Lebanese civil war began in 1978 — when it began in 1975. She says that the Israeli army "withdrew" from Lebanon in 1982; when in fact it only began its withdrawal in 1983, kept 20,000 troops there in 1984 and still maintains a 2,000-strong occupation force in the south of the country today. She claims the Bal-

four declaration was made in 1921 — it was published in November, 1917 — and wrongly states that the declaration "provided for two states, Israel and Palestine, to exist side by side." It did nothing of the kind. Balfour said that Britain "supported" (not "created" as Victor claims) a Jewish "National Home in Palestine; the division of Palestine into two states was a U.N. decision taken in 1947. Jewish "terrorism," Victor tells us — in the only reference of its kind to a Jewish group — "was never exported to foreign cities"; she is apparently unaware of the murder of Lord Moyne by Jewish assassins in Cairo in 1944.

Somewhere in all this is a book waiting to be written, a work which, just occasionally, can be glimpsed through the crust of clichés and bias. Victor does clearly understand the brutal nature of Israeli occupation and makes at least one pertinent remark on the Islamisation of Palestinian women in the occupied territories (she rightly notices that the intifada did not liberate Palestinian women). Hanan Ashrawi's views are quoted at length and her Arab critics rightly given a voice, although Victor fails to realise the extent to which Arafat betrayed Ashrawi. On one rather weird level, this book appears to be intended to

The Independent  
(Continued on page 7)

## Israelis storm Islamic college

(Continued from page 1)

Soldiers left behind a leaflet in Arabic, apparently to explain that the raid was to prevent "illegal" activities on campus.

College authorities said 30 male students were arrested, nine of them from their homes in Abu Dis. The dormitory houses 150 students, but the college has an enrollment of 1,500.

Since Sunday's attack, Israel has rounded up several dozen Palestinians in the West Bank.

Jewish settlers, in a defiant move against a government freeze on settlement expansion, began breaking ground Thursday for a new neighbourhood in the West Bank.

Two bulldozers plowed a dirt path in a barren hillside south of the settlement of Kochav Yaakov in the West Bank and settlers planted pine saplings as a mark of ownership.

They plan to build 500 housing units on the hill, just

## Algerian poll firm — minister

(Continued from page 12)

participation of all political forces."

The FIS was banned in March 1992, two months after the government cancelled the second round of a general election which the fundamentalist movement was poised to win.

French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has ordered a halt to all French arms sales to Algeria, including the controversial supply of helicopters, the magazine *Le Nouvel Economiste* said on Thursday.

The foreign ministry refused to comment on the report but said France had held only a minor place among Algeria's suppliers.

The magazine said Mr. Balladur took the decision

after the hijack of an Air France plane in Algiers on Dec. 24, in which gunmen killed four passengers before the Algerian authorities agreed to let the plane fly to France, where police commandos stormed it.

In Algiers, the moderate Socialist Forces Front of Hocine Ait Ahmed issued a call for Algerians to use every possible peaceful means to implement the "national contract" which it signed in Rome with other opposition movements and the FIS.

Its national council said the document was the basis for a "peace dynamic which could end bloodletting and re-launch democracy."

Making the national contract a reality needed the participation of all political groupings, it said.

## Arafat hails Amman accords

(Continued from page 1)

accords with Israel, was in itself a Palestinian acceptance of Jordan's role in Jerusalem's holy shrines.

Israel, in the peace treaty it signed with Jordan on Oct. 26, acknowledges the Kingdom's "special" role in the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem, and the PLO's commitment to respecting the treaty also meant an acceptance of this provision, the analysts pointed out.

In return, in the same preamble, Jordan reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy accord and also for the Palestinian quest for an independent state with Arab East Jerusalem as its capital.

Jordan has said it would retain its custody of the Jerusalem shrines only until the Palestinians gain sovereignty over the Holy City. Apparently this formula was satisfying to both sides. No Jordanian comment was immediately available.

Spokesman Abu Rodeina declined specific comment on the issue.

In his comments in Amman on Friday, Mr. Arafat expressed hope that the agreements "will promote Arab solidarity" and said Jordan and the PNA were also optimistic that the accord would pave the way for "wider cooperation in the future."

In remarks later at Gaza, Mr. Arafat described Palestinian-Jordanian relations as "special and unique and in fact (ties) of twins."

"We had successful and positive meetings, especially the agreements signed to push the wheel of ties between us forward in the interest of our Palestinian and Jordanian peoples," he was quoted as saying by Reuters.

The agreements ended a year-long tussle sparked by Mr. Arafat's refusal to ratify an economic agreement signed in January 1994 even after the accord was modified to address the Palestinian quest for symbols of independence.

However, with pressure from hardline Palestinian groups mounting on the one side while the autonomy accord is making snail's pace on the other, Mr. Arafat dropped his posture and sought to consolidate ties with Jordan, political observers say.

Mr. Arafat met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on his way home to Gaza. Reports from the Egyptian capital said the two leaders discussed the continued expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Mubarak's political adviser Osama Al Baz told reporters after the meeting Egypt was pleased that "the vice has tightened round (the Islamic Resistance Movement) Hamas and Islamic Jihad and round other groups who want to torpedo the peace process."

But he also called on the Israeli government to "change its position of supporting Israeli extremists who aim to undermine the peace process."

Negotiations on extending Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank — the next stage of implementing the autonomy accord — have stalled since a double suicide bombing on Sunday near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya which killed 20 people.

It was claimed by Islamic Jihad, which opposes PLO-Israel autonomy deal.

According to Dr. Baz, Egypt wanted the autonomy negotiations to continue, "but the recent incidents may cause a backslide in the peace process, due to the excessive Israeli measures" adopted after each attack by militants.

Dr. Baz said Egypt was "satisfied with the coordination between Jordan and the PLO — two of the main partners in the peace process."

Mr. Arafat briefed Mr. Mubarak on the accords he signed in Amman on Thursday and he also met Dr. Baz and Information Minister Salwar Al Sharif.

## Accords could help strategy

(Continued from page 1)

Seen in this context, Palestinian officials and economists believe, the agreement came at a time to just stop the downward slide and minimise the damage as the protocols are expected to revive trade.

In comparison to the previous three draft economic agreements — that were not signed because of reluctance on the part of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — the new accord provides more parity for the Palestinian side but also more practical guarantees to ensure the stability of the dinar.

Moreover, it aims at achieving free trade between Jordan and the Palestinian territories. According to Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb, joint committees will meet soon to find practical implementations for the trade agreement.

He told the Jordan Times that the joint committee will determine the duty-free commodities that will be exchanged in a way that will enhance economic integration but protect local industries on both sides.

To some critics of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, the agreement with the PNA could be seen as one that increases Jordan's association with Israel since the Palestinian territories including the autonomous areas are still under Israeli laws.

To some cynics, the agreement has reinforced suspicions in the Arab World that treaties with Israel are prerequisites for inter-Arab reconciliation.

But, in the view of analysts who see the importance of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty to the Kingdom, the Jordanians and Palestinians had had to meet some prerequisites of the post-cold war era and now they can afford to increase their maneuverability.

The importance of the treaty to inter-Arab action, according to analysts, will largely hinge on the success of the recent Arab moves, which some politicians, already describe as the

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## Jordan, Israel 'stuck' on accord

(Continued from page 12)

Israel's Ben Gurion airport and leave by the other as part of joint Jordanian-Israeli tourism packages.

Mr. Kessar was also quoted as saying that he was convinced that the two countries would eventually work out an agreement and that Jordan stood to benefit from

## When is a rampage not a rampage

(Continued from page 6)

set her up as president of a future Palestine, a putative role for which Hanan Ashrawi may not thank Victor. The author has a tendency to romanticise her heroine and it comes as no surprise to find the dust jacket informing us that Barbara Victor ("who has covered the Middle East for most of her professional life") is the author of four novels. What advice can one give? Stick to novels, Barbara, stick to novels.

## CONGRATULATIONS

On the occasion of

## INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY

## AL KARME

## Tours and Travel Agency

offers its congratulations to

the Indian people

and

the staff of the Indian embassy in Amman.

## 6 policemen, 4 militants killed in Egypt

MINYA, Egypt (Agencies) — Six policemen and four militants were killed in clashes in the troubled southern province of Minya on Friday, adding to the tally of Egypt's deadliest month in three years of unrest, police said.

They said the policemen were killed in Abu Qurqus, and the militants in a separate clash in the town of Minya itself, around 250 kilometres south of Cairo.

Militants bidding in a sugar cane field opened fire at con-

scripts as they arrived in a van to relieve colleagues. Five policemen were also wounded in the ambush.

Earlier in Minya, 20

kilometres to the north, police raided a hideout and shot dead the four militants in an apartment.

Eighteen people have died in the last week alone as police stepped up the fight against fundamentalists.

On Thursday security forces shot dead leading militant Ali Hassan Al Sherif at a train station in the Soba area, 500 kilometres south of Cairo.

Sixty people — including 31 militants and 22 policemen

shot dead two other militants in Beni Suef, while the second officer in two days was killed in Minya province.

Friday's early operation took place in a medical clinic that the extremists were using as hideout, according to security official.

Egypt's state-run Middle East News Agency later reported that one of the wounded had died. It referred to the clinic as "a den of terrorism."

The doctor who runs the clinic where the extremists hid and the owner of the building, Muslim clergyman, both were sympathisers with the group, he said.

After the battle, police arrested 21 suspected militants in a widespread crackdown on the radical group in Minya.

Security officials say as many as 90 activists are believed to be operating in the area, some of whom fled nearby provinces after successful police attacks on their hideouts.

## Japanese crown prince ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan also paid tribute to Japanese-Jordanian relations and underlined Jordan's appreciation of Tokyo's self-reliance oriented assistance to the Kingdom. "This approach rests on the firm belief that the resolution of economic and social problems is the key to maintaining international peace and security," the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince concluded his address emphasising the "shared values and objectives," and quoting Japanese poet Ho-O who wrote several decades ago: "Mountains of green, mountains of blue arise, my gratitude wells up and fills my eye."

On Friday, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath and Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Al Hassan accompanied the Japanese guests on a tour of Umm Qais in the north, where officials presented briefings on Jordan's water situation, the impact of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on the water sector and on Japan's assistance to Jordan in the water sector as well as to develop scientific research in the Kingdom.

Earlier in the day, Princess Naruhito visited the tombs of King Abdullah, King Talal and Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, and laid wreaths there.



NAIM S.EL - FAR &amp; CO.

SHARP

Welcomes His Majesty King Hussein's  
And His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's Guests

His Imperial Highness

Crown Prince Naruhito

and Her Imperial Highness

Crown Princess Masako

Wishing them an enjoyable stay in Jordan

## Arab economic problems worsened — report

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states continued to suffer from deficits in their budgets and balance of payments in 1993 while their industrial sectors slowed down and a chronic food gap widened, an official report said Friday.

Although they managed to trim budget deficits, they achieved this through a reduction of expenditure rather than through growth in revenues or economic reforms, said the annual economic report prepared by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

The report, a summary of which was published in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper *Al Bayan*, said a decline in oil earnings coupled with the huge Gulf war bill and lower remittances widened a gap in balance of payments in most member states and turned a surplus in some oil producers

into a deficit.

"Estimates show that the balance of payments in Arab countries, as reflected by their current accounts, as reflected by their current accounts, have generally deteriorated," said the report about the Arab economic and social developments in 1993.

The report, which has not been released yet, divided member states into two groups — key oil exporters Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and the remaining members of the 22-nation Arab League.

It said the current account deficit in the first group increased to 6.3 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) in 1993 but gave no figures.

In the second group, the current account has been "characterised by a continuous deficit which illustrates the existing weakness in their economic structures and their limited export capability and expansionary financial policies," said the report, also prepared by the Arab League economic department, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

It said remittances provided a key source of income for the second group and their decline in 1993 widened the current account deficit by 32 per cent.

"As for budgets, estimates show Arab governments managed to cut spending by nine per cent. Despite a decline in revenues by 5.7 per cent, the budget deficit dropped to 9.6 per cent of the GDP in 1993 from 11 per cent in 1992," it said.

It said the first group, which accounts for around two thirds of the Arab GDP, had slashed the deficit by 10 per cent and the second group by 12 per cent.

It provided no figures but the previous annual report showed the combined Arab budget deficit stood at nearly \$41 billion in 1992. The deficit in the first group stood at \$34.7 billion, nearly 85 per cent of the total.

The Arab deficit hit a record \$65 billion in 1991, with GCC states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE accounting for \$54.5 billion.

This was due to payment of more than \$65 billion for the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces.

The report said most Arab nations pressed ahead with reforms to tackle their economic woes but added such programmes had been slow. Some members still have no stock markets to ensure the success of privatisations while others have yet to liberalise trade and interest rates.

14.2 per cent mainly because of a fall in crude revenues to \$37 billion from \$101 billion.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved an amendment to the U.S. constitution, proposed by the Republican majority, that would compel the federal government to balance its budget by 2002.

"Such conditions aggravated the Arab food gap, which grew by 13 per cent," it said. "Arab states are still suffering from a gap in most food products, except fish. The gap is in cereal and grain accounts for nearly half."

The report said most Arab nations pressed ahead with reforms to tackle their economic woes but added such programmes had been slow. Some members still have no stock markets to ensure the success of privatisations while others have yet to liberalise trade and interest rates.

Lawmakers burst into a round of cheers as House Speaker Newt Gingrich announced early results that pushed the vote past the number of votes needed to pass the bill.

"We kept our promise," made in the Republican "Contract with America," to restore fiscal integrity to Congress, Mr. Gingrich said.

"Each and every one of our children today is endowed with \$18,000 of federal debt," said Republican leader Dick Armey of Texas.

Without the amendment, he said, "that indebtedness will grow larger and larger."

Democratic minority leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri opposed the measure. He said the issue would call for "the most important votes we will cast here in Congress no matter how long we've been here or how long we'll stay."

Democrats tried unsuccessfully to prod Republicans into detailing a list of major spending cuts they would support in order to bring about the balanced budget, and sought to exempt social security spending from future cuts.

President Bill Clinton's spokesman Mike McCurry said after the vote that a balanced budget was everybody's goal. "But the president would also like to see the details of how the House would propose to meet this new constitutional requirement."

In an earlier television interview, Mr. Clinton said Americans "are entitled to know, does (the measure) mean their taxes are going up, does this mean that we're going to cut medicare and social security across the board, what is the price of it."

Unlike other bills passed by Congress, a constitutional amendment does not require Mr. Clinton's approval before it is submitted to the states.

Republicans say they have no plans to make any cuts in social security.

The amendment details call for a balanced budget starting either in 2002, or two years after ratification by three-quarters of the states. Thereafter, it requires a three-fifths vote in both houses to waive the amendment for any one year.

## U.S. House approves balanced budget amendment

### Merrill Lynch sees dollar recovering from temporary weakness

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Jan. 19, 1995 until Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1995, was provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

#### Overview

**Fundamental View:** Uncertainty about whether or not President Clinton's \$40 billion package of loan guarantees for Mexico will be able to get through Congress has been weighing on the dollar along with concerns about the upcoming FOMC meeting. Add to that the report that Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. grew to a record \$56 billion in 1994 and it is little surprise that the dollar had a rather difficult week.

We think this weakness is temporary and expect the dollar to recover once turmoil surrounding the Mexican crisis dissipates and the Fed raises interest rates again. Our Fed watchers continue to expect the Fed to tighten interest rates by 50 basis points at the Jan. 31-Feb. 1 meeting and probably again in March.

Currently, the interest rate spread between U.S. and Japanese 3-month Euro rates is around 379 basis points, up about 35 basis points from a month ago. The same spread for the U.S. and Germany is around 108 basis points, up about 45 basis points from a month ago. If the Fed tightens interest rates as we expect, those spreads could widen by another 50-to-100 basis points over the next couple of months.

Based on this widening interest rate differential, we look for the dollar to trade near JPY/USD 105 in three- and six-months time before slower growth in the U.S. and higher interest rates in Japan push it back towards its long-term trend of depreciation. Our 12-month forecast if JPY/USD 95. Against the mark, we expect the dollar to rebound to trade in the range of DM/USD 1.60-to-1.85 for most of the year.

**Technical View:** The weak short term momentum and sentiment background continued to take its toll as the U.S. dollar index lost ground for the third time in four weeks. Overall, the greenback fell against four of the six major currencies that we regularly discuss. The decline of the past month has done much to damage the medium term momentum background of the index. However, short term oscillators are near oversold and are attempting to bottom. Thus, with the prospects for a rally in coming days apparently improving, the medium term pressures are likely to be relieved.

As a result, we will have to monitor the quality of any rally, rally since the next short term peak may also be a more important medium term top. The index has retraced about 80 per cent of its October-December rally, and a move towards 86.90 is possible in the context of the short term bottoming process. Important resistance remains in the 89-91.00 area.

#### Japanese yen

**Fundamental View:** The Japanese yen is currently trading JPY/USD 99.8 but we expect it to depreciate over the next few months for a number of reasons: (1) The spread between U.S. and Japanese short rates is widening; (2) Japan's trade surplus should decline; (3) the yield curve in Japan will

probably steepen; and (4) net capital outflows from the U.S. appear to be slowing down.

Recently, we revised our short- and medium-term outlook for the yen to JPY/USD in three- and six-month's time while maintaining our long-term outlook JPY/USD 85. The Kobe earthquake has added to our conviction that the dollar will be strengthened in coming months.

For the U.S., growth continues to be strong and we expect real GDP for the fourth quarter to come in at a 4.5 per cent rate. In our view, this will prompt the Fed to raise rates again. Conversely, the earthquake in Japan will dampen growth in the near-term and force the Bank of Japan to keep rates low for in coming months. The spread between U.S. and Japanese short rates is currently around 380 basis points and that could widen to 500 basis points over the next few months.

Also, the current account surplus in Japan which has been the principle force behind yen appreciation will probably decline as the rebuilding process encourages more imports. Lastly, net capital flows — the other side of the balance of payments equation — should move in the dollar's favour as returns in the U.S. market look more favourable. Pressure on the Japanese government to finance rebuilding through the issuance of bonds implies that the yield curve should steepen in Japan while bond yield in the U.S. may be near their peaks. However, current account dynamics in the longer-run still point to a trend of dollar depreciation.

**Technical View:** The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Jan. 20. The sentiment background for the currency remains oversold. Benchmark support remains at 100.80-101.80 Y.U.S.\$ and, with short term momentum apparently peaking, that support may be tested again over the near term.

#### Deutschmark

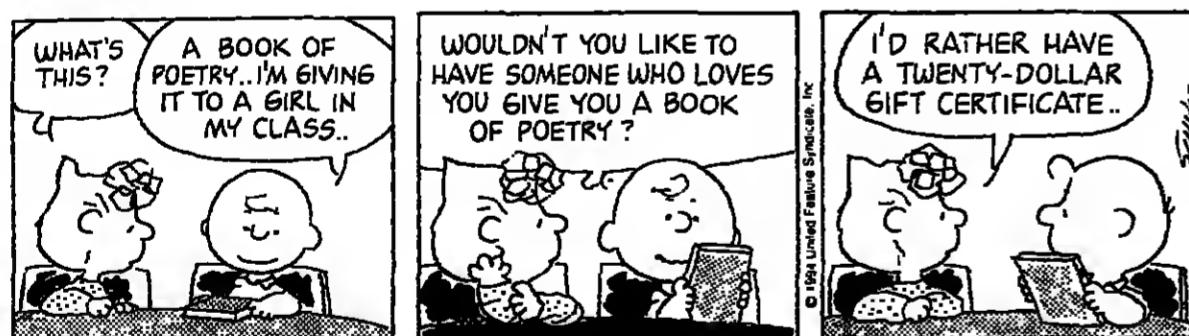
**Fundamental View:** The Deutschemark continues to benefit from a "flight to quality" that began with the Mexican crisis and carried over into other countries where current account or budget imbalances, political problems, or earthquakes were a cause for investor anxiety. The mark has seen significant appreciation against both the dollar and a variety of cross rates over the last month as investors looked for safe havens.

The mark is currently trading near DM/USD 1.51 compared to DM/USD 1.58 a month ago. At this level, the mark is probably overvalued and we expect the dollar to regain some ground if, as we expect, the Fed tightens interest rates at the upcoming FOMC meeting on Jan. 31-Feb. 1. A month ago, short-term rates in the U.S. offered about a 60 basis point premium to German rates. Now that premium has expanded to over 100 basis points and could expand by another 50-to-100 basis points over the next few months as the Fed raises U.S. rates.

The Bundesbank, on the other hand, is expected to wait until the third or fourth quarter before raising either the Lombard or the discount rate. Indeed, the Bundesbank may even keep the repo rate fixed until after the May French elections.

We maintain our outlook for the mark to head toward our three-, six- and 12-month forecasts of DM/USD 1.60, 1.65 and 1.60.

#### Peanuts



#### Andy Capp



#### Mutt 'n' Jeff



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The report said most Arab nations pressed ahead with reforms to tackle their economic woes but added such programmes had been slow. Some members still have no stock markets to ensure the success of privatisations while others have yet to liberalise trade and interest rates.

14.2 per cent mainly because of a fall in crude revenues to \$37 billion from \$101 billion.

The agricultural sector suffered even more due to weather conditions and other factors, according to the report.

Cereal production declined by 1.7 per cent, including 4.1 per cent for grain and 1.9 per cent for rice.

"Such conditions aggravated the Arab food gap, which grew by 13 per cent," it said. "Arab states are still suffering from a gap in most food products, except fish. The gap is in cereal and grain accounts for nearly half."

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## Australian Open

## Agassi to play Sampras in final

MELBOURNE (AP) — It was an Australian Open semifinal, but Andre Agassi treated it like another practice session.

Agassi, the colorful No. 2 seed, continued his amazing run through the opening Grand Slam tournament of the year when fellow American Aaron Krickstein retired Friday when trailing 6-4, 6-4, 3-0.

Krickstein cited a groin injury suffered early in the match as the reason for his withdrawal — but he had no chance of winning.

Agassi dominated the match with his whiplash groundstrokes and will now face defending champion and top seed Pete Sampras in Sunday's final.

Agassi, the U.S. Open champion, has won all six of his matches at the National Tennis Center in straight sets.

"It's exciting to come down here for the first time and make the final," Agassi said.

The match was play under the retractable center court roof because of a storm that subsequently flooded areas of the stadium and left the center court and media areas under ankle-deep water.

"You kind of think that when you've got a stadium with a roof you've got all the angles covered," Agassi joked of the floodwaters, which officials believed were caused by a blocked drain.

Agassi said he felt sorry for Krickstein and that had affected his own concentration.

"Aaron worked so hard to get this far he deserved to be out there," Agassi said. "I kind of sensed he wasn't at his best, so I pulled a lot of my shots."

"I made some errors because of a lack of concentration because I was more concerned what was happening on the other side of the net. I lost a little bit of intensity to play my own shots."

Sampras, who said Thursday that he was emotionally and physically tired, has had a far more difficult path to the final.

The defending champion, defeated fellow American Michael Chang 6-7 (6-2), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in three hours, seven minutes in his semifinal on Thursday.

He had been extended to five sets in his two previous matches — by Magnus Larsen and Jim Courier — and has played for more than 14 hours so far.

Agassi, by contrast, has completed his matches in just over eight hours.

Sampras advanced to his seventh Grand Slam title and will be seeking his sixth title on Sunday.



World No. 1 Pete Sampras wipes away his sweat during his semifinal match (AFP photo)

sored by Ford, offers prize money of U.S.\$6.2 million and concludes Sunday.

Black out on news about Gullikson's condition

Tim Gullikson, the coach of world tennis number-one Pete Sampras, is undergoing brain and heart tests at the University of Illinois at the Chicago Medical Center.

But details of the condition of the 43-year-old former player, who had to return to the United States from the Australian Open after suffering dizzy spells, were not revealed at the request of his family.

In a statement the only medical information the hospital could confirm was that Gullikson had suffered two mild strokes recently and that he had been diagnosed as having a congenital heart condition.

The statement also said that Gullikson had telephoned Sampras shortly after his arrival in the United States and had described the defending champion's performance at the year's open-

ing Grand Slam tournament as "an extraordinary effort."

Sampras, who has reached the Australian Open singles final, broke down and swept during a marathon five-set quarter-final victory over Jim Courier when a fan called out: "Do it for you coach, Pete."

Australian Open notebook

Mary Pierce heads into Saturday's Australian Open final against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the women's final.

The French fourth seed

contested five tournament

finals in 1994 — including the French Open — and was unable to come up with a win.

But WTA tour veteran Pam Shriver is among those who think it's only a matter of time.

"Mary can do it," Shriver said. "But she has not shown great form in finals. She is going to win a Grand Slam at some point and it could very be on Saturday."

Shriver described the final as "extremely hard to call."

"Arantxa's more consistent. She's won three Grand Slams before, but on form it's close to a toss up. It's an interesting match-up. They're the two players who've shown the best form."

\* Fred and Vijay star: Fred Stolle, better known as a television tennis commentator, and film star partner Vijay Amritraj won a hard-fought senior men's doubles final at the Australian Open on Friday.

A two-time Grand Slam singles winner during his career, Stolle and former Wimbledon quarterfinalist Amritraj — who appeared in the James Bond film Octopussy — took the first set against Australian duo Bob Carmichael and Kim Warwick 7-6 and 7-5 in the tie-breaker.

They then lost the second set 2-6 before fighting back to clinch the match in a sudden death tiebreaker, which won 7-5.

\* Prize money pot: The winners of the men's and women's singles titles at this year's Australian Open will walk away with \$360,000 each.

It is a long way from the equivalent of \$7,500 Ken Rosewall got at today's exchange rates for beating Arthur Ashe in the 1971 final.

Those were also the days when equal prize money did not exist, and Margaret Court earned the equivalent of just \$1,350 for her three-set win over Evonne Goolagong the same year.

\* Aussie success: No Australian woman made it into the third round of the women's singles at the Australian Open, but the local junior women are doing a whole lot better.

Two Australians will meet in the junior girls final — Annabel Elwood and Siobhan Drake Brockman.



Mary Pierce  
Sanchez Vicario eyes top ranking at last

MELBOURNE (R) — Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, so long the courier to the queen of the courts, Steffi Graf, can at last wrest the number one crown from the injured German if she wins Saturday's Australian Open title.

But standing is her way as a new pretender to the throne is France's Mary Pierce, only 20 and in irresistible form in her progress to the year's first Grand Slam final.

Neither the fourth-seeded Pierce nor top seed and world number two Sanchez Vicario has dropped a set in six matches at this tournament, though the Spaniard has yet to play a seed.

The 23-year-old winner of three Grand Slams, two of them last year, does not regard the unprecedented ease of her passage to a Grand Slam final as giving her opponent any advantage.

"It puts even more pressure on you because, even though the seeded players are not there, these (unseeded) players are playing well and making it tough," said Sanchez Vicario.

The tenacious Spaniard, whose fighting spirit has made her a favorite among the fans, was hammered 6-0, 6-2 by Graf in last year's final but much has happened in the women's game since then.

She went on to win her first Grand Slam of the year by beating Pierce 6-4, 6-4 at the French Open in early June. Then followed that up with victory over the formidable Graf at the U.S. Open.

But her second title was against a Graf who, seriously affected by a back injury, let slip a 6-1, 3-2 lead to lose in three sets.

Graf's subsequent struggle to regain fitness has given the resilient Sanchez Vicario, so long in the shadow of Graf and the absent Monica Seles, the opportunity to grab the top ranking for the first time.

To hear her speak over the past week, however, Saturday's match, her seventh Grand Slam final, is just another game and she will not be thinking about the dream of ending Graf's 19-

month reign as number one. "It would be great if I do it but it's not on my mind. I will just try to go and play my best and see what happens," she said after beating 47th-ranked American Marianne Werdel Wittmeyer in a one-sided semifinal.

She has also rejected any psychological advantage from her defeat of the Canadian-born Pierce in Paris after her opponent had made French Open history by becoming the first player to drop only 10 games on her way to the Grand Slam final.

Neither the fourth-seeded Pierce nor top seed and world number two Sanchez Vicario has dropped a set in six matches at this tournament, though the Spaniard has yet to play a seed.

Pierce, whose loss in Paris marked her first Grand Slam final appearance, is playing as aggressively and arguably more consistently than seven months ago.

She has only dropped 25 games on the way to the final and her semifinal opponent, world number three Conchita Martinez, who was blitzed 6-3, 6-1, compared the power of her groundstrokes to

Graf's.

Pierce, the world number five, has gained in confidence after freeing herself from the dominance of her father, Jim, who was banned indefinitely from all her tournaments in 1993 because of his disruptive behavior.

Under Nick Bollettieri, one-time mentor of Andre Agassi and now also coach of Boris Becker, Pierce has been more focused and appears to have brought her unpredictable temperament under control.

Bollettieri, who took over coaching duties at the beginning of last year, returned to the United States earlier this week but has been advising her by telephone.

"He's helped me quite a bit tactically and mentally. We work on everything in my game," Pierce told reporters after trouncing eighth-seeded Natasha Zvereva 6-1, 6-4 in the quarter-finals.

Pierce, who is bidding to become the first Frenchwoman since 1967 to win a Grand Slam, believes she can improve on her form. "I'm happy with the way I am playing but I think I can play better," she said after beating Martinez.

## European Basketball Roundup

ATHENS (R) — Olympiakos of Greece beat Badalona of Spain 48-53 (halftime 50-31) in the European Men's Basketball Championship. Olympiakos' Eddie Johnson 18, Dragan Tasic 18, Alexander Volkov 12. For Badalona — Juan Morales 21, Jordi Villacampa 10, Alfonso Garcia 6.

Real Madrid beat Maccabi Tel Aviv 76-64 in a fluctuating Group A match which saw the Israelis leading 42-32 at halftime.

Aravida, Sabonis scored Madrid's first 11 points but Maccabi stretched clear to 32-19 after just 12 minutes.

The Spanish side staged an impressive second half rally as Maccabi's Guy Goodees, a major influence in the first 20 minutes, tired badly.

Sabonis topped with 23 points as Real Madrid kept their unbeaten home record this season.

Io France, ex-European champions Limoges kept their hopes of qualifying for the final phase alive when they scored a crucial 69-57 win over Barcelona.

Limoges visit pace-setting Efes in an important match next Thursday.

## Group A

	P	W	L	Pts.
Pesaro (Italy)	10	8	2	18
Panathinaikos (Greece)	10	7	3	17
Real Madrid (Spain)	10	7	3	17
CSKA Moscow (Russia)	10	5	5	15
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)	10	5	5	15
Olimpia Ljubljana (Slovenia)	10	3	7	13
Paok Salonika (Greece)	10	3	7	13
Benfica (Portugal)	10	2	8	12

## Group B

	P	W	L	Pts.
Efes Pilsen (Turkey)	10	7	3	17
Olympiakos (Greece)	10	7	3	17
Barcelona (Spain)	10	6	4	16
Limoges (France)	10	6	4	16
Bologna (Italy)	10	6	4	16
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany)	10	4	6	14
Cibona Zagreb (Croatia)	10	4	6	14
Joventut Badalona (Spain)	10	0	10	10

## Warriors win in overtime; Suns down Pacers

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) — The Golden State Warriors ended their 14-game road losing streak Thursday night, getting seven points in overtime from rookie Dwayne Morton in a 121-118 victory over the Washington Bullets.

The Warriors trailed by 18 points midway through the third quarter before rallying. Tim Hardaway scored 30 for Golden State, going 11-for-11 at the free throw line. Morton had a career-high 14 points, as did Tom Gugliotta 14 in his first game at USAIR Arena since being traded from the Bullets on Nov. 17.

Calbert Cheaney led Washington with a career-high 32 points on 14-of-18 shooting. Scott Skiles had 25 points and Juan Howard 24.

Suns 92, Pacers 86: In Indianapolis, Charles Barkley had a season-high 19 rebounds, including a crucial

Anthony Mason pulled down 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who had their 100th consecutive sellout at Madison Square Garden. Lamond Murray scored 14 points to pace the Clippers.

Tran Blazers 106, Pistons 89: In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Clyde Drexler, the subject of persistent trade rumors, scored 13 points and sat out the final 16 minutes as Portland beat Detroit.

Rob Strickland had 15 points and seven assists and Clifford Robinson had 14 points for Portland, which used an 18-2 run late in the third quarter to pull away.

The victory was Portland's third in four games, while Detroit's loss was its 21st in its last 26 games.

Magic 102, Bulls 99: In Orlando, Florida, Shaquille O'Neal had 37 points and 17 rebounds, including a crucial

## NBA ROUNDUP

one following a missed free throw in the final seconds as Phoenix matched the club record of eight straight road wins.

The Pacers, who lost lead rebounder Dale Davis with a dislocated right shoulder early in the second quarter, trailed 80-65 with 9:23 left in the game. Rik Smits, who led all scorers with 26 points and had a team-high 12 rebounds, and Bryon Scott sparked a 17-4 run, but Indiana then blew four consecutive chances to tie the game. Elliott Perry and A.C. Green led the Suns with 14 points apiece.

Cavaliers 77, Hawks 68: In Atlanta, Cleveland matched its lowest scoring output of the season but held the Hawks to their lowest score since moving to Atlanta in 1968.

Chris Mills and Tyrone Hill leading the Cavaliers with 14 points apiece and Bobby Phillips had 13. Mookie Blaylock led the Hawks with 22 points, including Atlanta's final nine points over the last 5:36.

The Hawks won their third in a row and held the Hawks scoreless for the last 3:25 and didn't trail in the final 45:17.

Knicks 87, Clippers 74: In New York, Patrick Ewing had 21 points and 10 rebounds as New York Knicks won its sixth straight game and its 14th in the last 15.

The Clippers were held to just 29 first-half points as they lost their third straight on a six-game road trip that began Monday.

Spurs 103, Rockets 100: In San Antonio, the San Antonio Spurs relied almost exclusively on their starting five Thursday night, getting 101 points from them in beating Houston to move a half-game ahead of the Rockets in the Midwest

## European Roundup

Europe this season, United recovered from a disastrous start — they trailed 4-0 points after 12 minutes — to wrap up the match 4-2, second half.

American Michael Yarwood was by far the best player for the French, with 17 points for the French.

In the first half, play was dominated by Limoges, but Limoges made numerous changes and Regis found the right touch, closing the gap to 1-1.

American Tim Keane then spurred his team into action and two one-point throws from Regis, Richard Daccoury after 35 minutes put Limoges 3-1 driving seat.

"We now must try everything against EYES, Limoges, this season but we can't afford to be beaten," said Fredéric Forte.

Limoges was pace-setter in an important game.

Meanwhile, the police continue their investigation into allegations of assault against Cantona. No charges have yet been made.

In scenes the FA said were unprecedented in English soccer, the fan, 20-year-old Matthew Simons, and Cantona exchanged punches before the player's teammates intervened. As the Frenchman was led away, another fracas erupted between United midfielder Paul Ince and an unidentified 48-year-old spectator.

Scotland Yard said the two fans gave statements at a local police station alleging assault. Both suffered minor bruises.

World governing body FIFA also condemned Cantona's behaviour, but said that for now it would leave the matter in the hands of FA.

It was the latest in a long line of Cantona tirades in France and England. Wednesday's red card was his fifth

	W	L	Pts
1	1	2	18
2	1	3	17
3	1	4	16
4	1	5	15
5	1	6	14
6	1	7	13
7	0	8	12
8	0	9	11

## Manchester United ban Eric Cantona for the rest of the season

MANCHESTER (AP) — Manchester United on Friday suspended French striker Eric Cantona until the end of the season for attacking a fan at Wednesday's game at Crystal Palace.

The 28-year-old striker jumped into the crowd and aimed a two-footed kung-fu-style kick at a 20-year-old Palace fan who had been taunting him after the Frenchman had been sent off.

Cantona then punched the fan before being restrained by officials.

Manchester United director Maurice Watkins announced the ban at a news conference Friday, a day after the English Football Association charged Cantona with bringing the game into disrepute.

Watkins also said United had fined Cantona "the maximum sum permissible," under his contract, although the club did not say what that figure was.

"What happened was a stain on our game," FA Chief Executive Graham Kelly said Thursday. "The Football Association believes the incident was unprecedented in our game. It brought shame on those involved and worst of all on the game itself."

Cantona, the French national team captain and English club player of the year last season, has 14 days to answer the FA's charge. His fate then will be decided at a hearing before an FA disciplinary committee, which also will take into account the action already taken by United.

Meanwhile, the police continue their investigation into allegations of assault against Cantona. No charges have yet been made.

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Manchester United star Eric Cantona fights with a spectator during Manchester United's 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace (AP photo)

since joining Manchester United in 1992. He missed United's first four European Champions Cup games through suspension and served a three-match ban earlier this season for foul play in a pre-season exhibition game.

The presidents of the French Football Federation and the National Soccer League have requested English soccer authorities to relay all information and evidence so they can take appropriate action. Federation president Claude Simonet indicated Cantona would be ousted as captain of the French national team.

"I am stupefied by such behaviour, which is contrary to all sporting ethics," Simonet said. "The French Football Federation will likely take draconian measures at the appropriate moment."

## 49ers poised for record fifth Super Bowl victory



MIAMI (R) — It is a team of superstars against a team of no names, a team of destiny against a Cinderella team.

In Sunday's all-California Super Bowl, the San Francisco 49ers aim to become the first five-time winners of the NFL's big show, while the San Diego Chargers try to pull off the kind of upset sports legends are made of.

The 49ers were the undisputed team of the '80s with a 4-0 Super Bowl record. And after disposing of the self-proclaimed team of the '90s with a 38-28 victory over the two-time defending champion Dallas Cowboys, they are poised to add a new chapter to their glorious Super Bowl history.

The only remaining obstacles to fulfilling that destiny is a team they already crushed 38-15 during the regular season.

The 15-3 49ers, favoured by an unprecedented 20 points, boast the league's most explosive offence and the finest defence money can buy — a combination that seems set to extend the 10-year trend of NFC Super Bowl domination.

While it may be a refreshing change to see a new team in the Super Bowl — or for that matter any team other than the Buffalo Bills, losers of the last four — the 13-5 Chargers appear to be another in a long line of overmatched AFC clubs, long on heart and desire, but short on weapons.

Weapons are something the Niners bave in abundance, including nine pro bowl players.

The offence features the league's best quarterback in Steve Young and a devastating veteran corps of receivers, led by record-breaking future hall of famer Jerry Young has said nothing

fastest man in the NFL and a player single-handedly capable of taking away half the field from opposing quarterbacks.

Other significant additions to the revamped 49ers defence are fiery linebacker Ken Norton Jr. going for his record third straight title after starring for Dallas the past two years, and tested veterans Gary Plummer and Ricky Jackson, each looking for a first championship ring.

And sensational rookie defensive lineman Bryant Young has been wreaking havoc up front for the Niners all season.

The Chargers fancy themselves a "smash mouth" team built in the NFC East mould — not a bad concept considering that division has produced six of the last eight Super Bowl champions.

Their game is based on ball control with burly young rushing talent narrow means of winning their way behind a huge front line.

San Diego knows it must keep Steve Young and company off the field in order to have a chance and that means controlling the line of scrimmage and eating up huge chunks of the clock with their running game.

Their offence is run by quarterback Stan Humphries, a pizza-loving throwback to the days before the fitness craze, who has a way of coming up with big plays when the team needs it most.

These Chargers have demonstrated a propensity for producing stirring come-from-behind victories.

Three-fourths of the San Francisco defensive backfield are pro-bowl selections, beginning with the supremely talented Deion Sanders, the

short of winning the championship would be acceptable to these 49ers. "Anything less would be a train wreck."

And to that end, the 49ers

formerly suspect defence has been completely rebuilt with the express purpose of bringing a fifth Super Bowl title.

Four gave them a chance of stopping the Miami Dolphins' high-scoring offence and even fewer thought they could contend with the Pittsburgh Steelers' stifling defence.

Junior Seau of the San Diego Chargers stretches out during team practice on Thursday at the Dolphin Training Facility in Davie, Florida, three days prior to Super Bowl XXIX which will oppose the Chargers to the San Francisco 49ers (AP photo)

Rice and complemented by tough-as-nails John Taylor, who caught the game-winning touchdown pass in Super Bowl XXIII.

They also field an improved running game, thanks to rookie fullback William Floyd who is an effective blocker for Ricky Watters and a solid short-yardage threat. And Young almost as dangerous scrambling with the ball as he is throwing it.

Young has said nothing

about his plan to play the first trick in

the key to the slams was North's

bid of four diamonds. When a player removes a game contract to a non-partial, it is not a "weakness," rather, it is a slam intention.

South cooperated by cue-bidding

the ace of spades and North wasted no time in contracting for 12 tricks.

West led the top of the heart sequence and declarer's problem was obvious. A heart loser could not be avoided, so the fate of the contract hinged on not surrendering a club trick as well.

If clubs split 3-3, there was no problem. But the more likely club division was 4-2. Even that holding would not be fatal if either defender had length in both minors or if East was the defender with three trumps and a short club.

Declarer won the first trick in

dummy, came to hand with the

queen of clubs, crossed back to the table by over-taking the three of trumps with the eight and led another club. When both defenders followed, declarer re-entered dummy, took the last of diamonds and led another club.

East was powerless to prevent declarer from bringing home the contract. If the defender ruffed with the last outstanding trump, declarer would follow low, later discard a heart on the ace of clubs and trump the last heart. If East did not ruff, the ace would win and declarer would ruff the last club with dummy's high trump.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH

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PARLAY YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 7 6 2

♦ A K 3

♦ K 2 2

♦ 6 3 2

EAST

♦ 10 5 4

♦ 2 A J 9 8 3

♦ Q 10 9

♦ 7 6 5 2

♦ 10 9 8 7

♦ 4 J 4

SOUTH

♦ A

♦ 7 6 4

♦ A Q J 10 2

♦ A K Q 6

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

2 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

Before playing to the first trick, map your campaign carefully. The secret is to play all your forces to gain maximum effectiveness.

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bid of four diamonds. When a player removes a game contract to a non-

partial, it is a slam intention.

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## Al Wihdat clinch 4th Jordan Soccer League trophy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Wihdat Friday won their 4th Jordan Soccer League crown after their final-minute 1-0 victory over Al Arabi who were relegated to the second division.

The match, attended by a record 22,000 fans at Amman Stadium, saw at least half a dozen chances squandered by Al Wihdat's players before Jamal Mahmoud netted the winning goal seconds before the final whistle.

A draw would have also secured the title for Al Wihdat who finished first two points ahead of second-placed Al Ramtha who came in second after a 2-0 win over Shahab Al Hussein.

Titleholders after their 1-0 win over Al Hussein in Irbid.

Four teams dropped to the second division: Al Arabi, Shahab Al Hussein, Al Karmel and Al Jeel.



Al Wihdat's team

standing after a 2-0 win over Al Arabi in their final match.

Al Arabi, Qadissieh and Kufraoun tied in overall points and finished sixth, seventh and eighth on goal difference.

### FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.




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# Jordan, Israel, 'stuck' on preferential trade accord

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel are "stuck" on a list of commodities to be given preferential treatment in a trade agreement being negotiated in view of the high customs duties and taxes on imports to Israel, a senior official said Friday.

The official said Jordan was also "taking it slowly" while negotiating the trade accord. "The Israelis would like to conclude an agreement as quickly as possible, but we have to take a lot of factors into consideration before we actually enter an accord," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "We don't want to rush into something as serious as a trade agreement with anyone," added the official. That being the principle, however, the official said he expected a meeting on Wednesday to make progress on the issue.

The two sides met last Wednesday but they could not reach agreement on the list of commodities.

Under the Oct. 26 peace treaty, Jordan and Israel are bound to finalize an accord on trade by May 10.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, during a Jan. 12 visit to Amman, set Jan. 25 as the deadline for reaching an accord as part of an effort to accelerate the implementa-

tion of the treaty, but the deadline was missed as a result of the differing approaches.

"We don't see it as a deadlock, but a matter to be settled in further negotiations," said the Jordanian official, who declined to go into details of the differences. "We hope the issue could be settled this week" when the two sides meet at Deir Alla on the Jordanian side of the Jordan Valley.

But it appeared that the main difference was over Israel's insistence that the lowering of tariffs be "symmetrical" — meaning that the cuts be uniform on both sides in terms of percentages.

This would effectively mean Israeli duties and taxes on Jordanian products remaining higher than the Jordanian tariffs on Israeli products.

"Basically, we believe that Israel, in view of its high customs duties and other taxes related to imported products, should give Jordan a better deal," said the official. He noted that "the base customs duties and taxation starts from 24 per cent in Jordan while the base for Israel is over 30 per cent."

"We don't see why Israel cannot offer us preferential treatment at par with the treatment it is offering to imports from the U.S. and European countries," the

official told the Jordan Times.

According to reports in the Israeli press, the two sides have reached an agreement in principle that more Jordanian goods would benefit from preferential treatment as well as from overall lower duties and the differences are over the actual items to be included in the list for preferential treatment.

## Aviation talks stalled

Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar said Wednesday that he did not expect Jordan and his country to finalize an agreement in civil aviation soon.

According to Mr. Kessar, who was quoted by the Jerusalem Post in its Thursday issue, the stalemate was over the route that Jordanian aircraft are to take while flying through Israeli airspace. Jordan is seeking a higher altitude than the 11,000 feet that Israel is offering.

Israel is arguing that commercial flights to Jordan flying at a height above 11,000 feet would interfere with Israeli military training flights.

"We have offered them the best possible terms without hurting the air force," Mr. Kessar was quoted as saying by the Jerusalem Post.

But flying as low as 11,000 feet would effectively eliminate the fuel advantage that

Royal Jordanian (RJ) planes would have when they cut short the flying time by using Israeli airspace to enter the Mediterranean skies on their West-bound flights.

A senior Jordanian official familiar with the negotiations said the Kingdom was insisting on the "universal principle of free ascent and descent" which is an essential component in international air transport agreements.

"What is the use of an agreement if we cannot agree on the basic principles," asked the official. "If Jordanian aircraft were to use Israeli airspace under the conditions that Israel wants, then there is little, if any at all, advantage for us."

Furthermore, "flying under 11,000 feet in winter is not at all a pleasant experience for passengers since that belt of altitude in this part of the world would have a lot of turbulence," said the official.

The Israeli argument involving military training flights, the official said: "In a situation of peace, why can't they shift the area of training flights?"

The statement, according to Mr. Kessar, also means that there would be no agreement between RJ and Israel's El Al airlines. An RJ-El Al accord will make it possible for tourists to fly to Queen Alia International Airport or

(Continued on page 7)



HEBRON CLASHES: An Israeli soldier handcuffs a Palestinian youth while another one arrests 30 students (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Egypt wants \$900m in damages from Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt is demanding \$900 million in compensation from Sudan for its seizure of Egyptian schools and other property in Khartoum, a government newspaper reported on Friday.

Egypt last week submitted to the Sudanese government a "long list" of property which was confiscated "as part of a provocative campaign" and demanded three billion Egyptian pounds in compensation, the Egyptian Gazette said.

The Sudanese government since 1993 has taken control of Egyptian schools and the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, saying the moves were part of "the Islamisation of education in the country."

Last year it seized several Egyptian irrigation department offices arguing their leases had expired.

Relations between the two neighbours have been strained since the government of General Omar Al Bashir came to power in June 1989.

A long, simmering dispute over the resource-rich border area of Halaib erupted again in 1991. Egypt accuses Sudan of supporting Islamic militants, while Sudan accused Egypt of backing its opposition exiled in Cairo.

Gen. Bashir was quoted by the government daily Al Enqaz Al Watani on Friday as

telling Egypt's legal opposition that ties had chilled over "measures taken by the Egyptian authorities with the aim of changing the features" of the area, a reference to Halaib.

But Gen. Bashir also told the opposition parties who were in Khartoum on Thursday that Sudan will support Egypt "in any stands it takes for defending its positions and rights against Israeli stubbornness."

Egypt says it will not renew its adherence to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel refuses to sign on.

A leading Egyptian opposition leader has recommended that Egypt and Sudan seek international arbitration to resolve their dispute over Halaib.

Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Labour Party, made the suggestion after he and other opposition leaders met Thursday with Gen. Bashir.

Gen. Bashir said that steps taken by Egypt over the Halaib area could have led to a break in diplomatic relations had it not been for Sudanese respect for the Egyptian people.

Halaib, a triangle-shaped border area along the Red Sea, is believed to be rich in minerals.

Under a 1899 treaty with Britain, Halaib was incorporated into Egypt. But in 1902, Egypt gave Sudan administrative powers there.

## Bahrain asks Britain to refuse asylum to rebels

LONDON (AFP) — Bahrain on Friday asked Britain to refuse political asylum to three opposition figures here, saying they were terrorists bent on using London as a base to create an Islamic state in Bahrain.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa said he asked British counterpart Douglas Hurd to refuse asylum to Sheikh Ali Salman, 30, a leading Shiite cleric who came here with followers last week.

He told reporters after the meeting that Mr. Hurd was non-committal, saying the case was under study.

The three were granted temporary stay in Britain pending a ruling on their request for asylum.

Sheikh Ali's arrest in Bahrain on Dec. 5 touched off the worst political violence the Gulf country has seen since it gained independence from British protection in 1971.

The London-based Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said a total of 16 people were killed in the unrest, but Bahraini authorities only acknowledged the death of one policeman.

Sheikh Al Khalifa said he told Mr. Hurd that "terrorist acts being taken in Bahrain" were led by a few individuals who flew to this country under a banner which looks different from what's really

behind it.

"I think if they are permitted to stay in this country they will organise activities against the law in my country," he said. "The are Islamic extremists, they represent a fundamentalist philosophy."

He said the opposition was intent on creating an Islamic state in his country.

Bahrain deported three dissidents to Iran this week, the Bahraini opposition-in-exile said Friday.

Sheikh Mohammad Hassan Ali Hussein Khojasteh, 23, Mohammad Nasser and Ali Mohammad arrived in the Iranian port of Bushehr on Tuesday, said an IFLB member.

The three had been accused of taking part in the clashes between security forces and demonstrators in mid-December, he said.

Shikh Khojasteh was jailed and tortured for 12 days in Hodeh Al Jaf prison, the IFLB member charged, adding that no reason had been given for the deportation of the three.

The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, accused "foreign countries" of whipping up unrest, in an interview published in Egypt's Friday.

His son, Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa, accused Iran without naming it of being behind the disturbances which mainly involved Shiite Muslims.

## Dual Jordanian-Palestinian 'nationality' no longer an issue

By Lamin K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) decided that there was no need to discuss giving Palestinian holders of Jordanian two-year passports dual citizenship since both their Jordanian passports and to-be-issued Palestinian passports are no longer travel documents.

Consequently the issuance

of Palestinian passports that the PNA plans as part of enhancing symbols of Palestinian sovereignty, should not warrant changing the status of Palestinian holders of the Jordanian two-year passports.

"The status of Palestinian holders of Jordanian two-year passports will remain intact," the official said.

Jordan and PNA have also

agreed to extend crossing

hours on the King Hussein Bridge to 16 hours as a prelude to keep the bridge open for 24 hours, the official.

A senior PNA official said the Palestinians had decided that there was no need to raise the issue of dual citizenship.

"But Jordanians of Palesti-

nian origin who hold five-

year passports who are

citizens are not expected to

acquire Palestinian pass-

ports," the official explained.

A senior PNA official said

the Palestinians had decided

that there was no need to

raise the issue of dual

citizenship and not to make

any changes on the current

situation.

The PNA had asked Jor-

dan to allow dual citizens-

hips of two-year passports to have both Palestinian and Jor-

danian passports.

Jordan responded that it

could not allow dual

citizenships since that con-

travened the Arab League

rules and regulations. But the

two sides then decided that

the situation did not warrant

raising the issue of dual

citizenship.

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